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FEATURES:

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Date:

Monday 17th May 2010

Time:

10 am to 12 noon

Location:

Designwyse

1 Fairborne Way

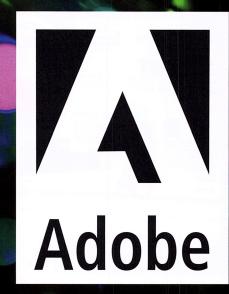
Keysborough 3173

Presenter: Mike McHugh

Free Parking & refreshments provided

Book now as seating is limited!

Bookings: www.designwyse.com.au





Attendees who purchase or upgrade to Adobe CS5 from Designwyse will get the new Photoshop WOW book valued at \$69.95 for FREE!

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THE iPAD IS HERE!

Love it or loathe it, it's the gadget of the year. Here's our first iPad review.

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We're accumulating hundreds - even thousands - of gigabytes of data, but what's the best way of storing it?

TOP TIPS & TRICKS

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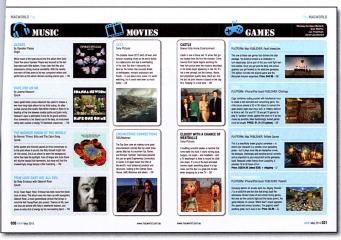
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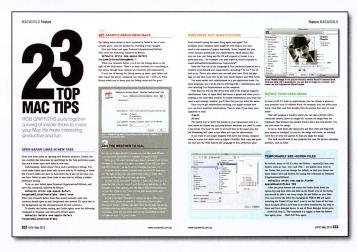
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DAVE BULLARD

iAds - a slippery slope

ot happy, Jan. On April 9
Steve Jobs announced
the advent of iAds –
advertisements inserted directly into
iPhone and iPod touch apps.

As we reported in our live online blog on the iPhone OS 4.0 preview, Apple CEO Steve Jobs said: "A lot of the apps on the [iPhone] are free, or 99 cents, or \$1.99. And we like that. Users like that. But these developers have to find a way to make some money. And we'd like to help them."

I'm sure the developers are happy to get a bit more cash for their efforts – and they deserve it – but I'd rather pay a bit more for an app than suffer through interruptions.

Much more than just an antivirus! Intego VirusBarrier X6 protects your Mac. See Page 7 Not so nice, is it? And we're not just talking about the odd ad.

Jobs says the average iPhone user spends around 30 minutes a day using apps: "Now, if we said we wanted to put an ad up every three minutes, that would be 10 ads per device per day. We're going to soon have 100 million devices.

"That's a billion ad opportunities per day in the iPhone and iPod touch community. This is a pretty serious opportunity."

And a pretty serious inroad into my time, Steve! I could live with seeing one ad when I launch an app, and maybe another when I close it, but every three minutes is just not on. Call it the SBS approach against Channel 10 in the middle of *Master Chef.*

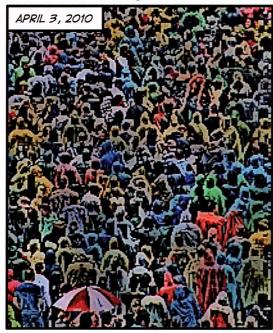
Apple is looking at serious money here, as it plans to grab 40 percent of the ad revenue in return for hosting the ads, so who's to say there won't be pressure on developers to include ads even if they don't want to?

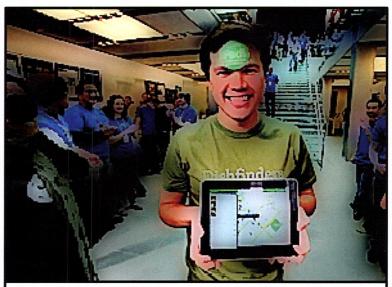
So what's next? OS XI with banner ads rolling across under the Dock? This is a slippery slope, and there's no turning back.

Congratulations. Liana Pappas has been promoted to Associate Publisher of Australian Macworld, which means the buck now stops with her. Now, about that raise ... 🖫

Phullsod

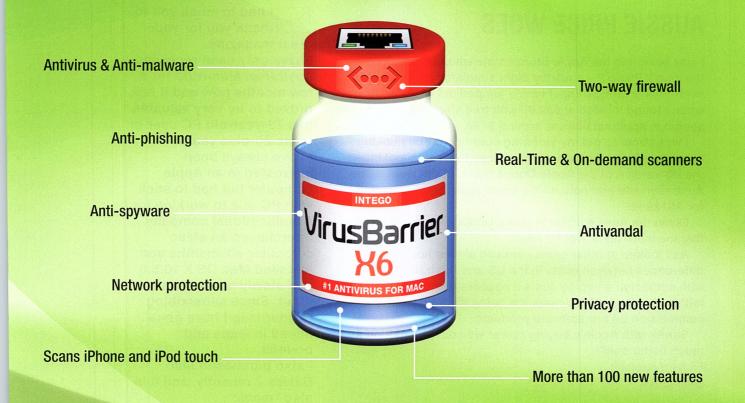
Macintoon by Roberto De Vido





MICHAEL BOUGHT THE FIRST IPAD, OF COURSE, BUT WHAT HE **REALLY** LOOKED FORWARD TO WAS THE SECOND-GENERATION **44-INCH** VERSION, FOR WHICH A JUNE LAUNCH WAS RUMORED

Much more than just an antivirus



Protect your Mac from malware and network threats

Only **VirusBarrier X6** provides comprehensive protection from malware and network threats. VirusBarrier X6 is the only antivirus program for Mac that includes full anti-malware protection together with two-way firewall, network protection, anti-phishing, anti-spyware features and more. VirusBarrier X6 protects Macs from all known network-based threats, as well as all known malware.

Also available is **Internet Security Barrier X6**, which includes VirusBarrier X6 and four other Intego programs, providing parental control, backup, antispam, confidential document protection features and much more.

Intego X6 software is priced lower than X5 versions, and the standard licenses protect up to 2 Macs. Also available: 5-Mac family packs and multi-seat licenses.



www.intego.com









CONEXUS LETTER OF THE MONTH

AUSSIE PRICE WOES

I was browsing the Apple Store online when I came across the item *X-Plane* 9 – a worthy flight simulator program I have been toying with getting. I nearly jumped out of my seat when I found it listed at \$59.95 with free shipping. I have seen it in apple retailers at around \$120.

I was about to get my suffering credit card out, thinking about my good fortune, when I noticed that I was looking at the US version of the Apple Online Store. I then went to the Australian site and noticed the exact same product selling for A\$129.95.

Given the Aussie dollar is about US90c this would mean that the mark up is around A\$60.

As I looked at other items I noticed similar huge differences between costs in the US and Australia. Even with additional shipping costs it appears to me that we faithful Australian Mac users are being slugged a hefty commission on our software products.

Surely with Apple's buying power we could be getting a much better deal?

Richard Banham Stirling, SA

I asked Apple and some local resellers about this, Richard, and all declined to comment. I also double-checked your prices, and found that when you buy *X-Plane* 9 direct from Laminar Research (www.x-plane.com) you're paying a mere US\$29, plus US\$9.72 shipping to South Australia. Are there any resellers or distributors out there who would like to comment? – DB



YOU'RE GREAT

I had to email you to thank you for your great magazine.

I have only been receiving Australian Macworld for a few months now and it has proved to be very valuable to a 73-year-old PC user of some 20-plus years. I have always been interested in an Apple computer but had to stick with PC due to working for a multinational company. I purchased an eMac computer six months ago, installed Mac OS X 10.5.8 and slowly started to work it out. Since subscribing to your mag I have gone ahead in leaps and bounds.

I also purchased *Mac*Basics 2 recently, and it is also "magic".

Yet another of my recent purchases was a

recent purchases was a 3GS iPhone, and I was disappointed with the camera.

You fixed that with the applications you insert in the mag. For a couple of dollars I can now zoom using Camera Genius. The camera is now "magic" too.

Maxwell J. Spencer Bribie Island, QLD

Thanks for the kind words, Maxwell. We try to please all of the people all of the time, so it's nice to get some encouragement.

Since you liked Camera Genius so much you might also want to have a look at Best Camera (\$3.99), which gives you a swag of great filters and effects.— DB

YOU'RE HORRIBLE

I was absolutely **DISGUSTED** with your pathetic April Fool's Day joke about Apple discontinuing Mac products. (http://bit.ly/c5ahf8) This is utter stupidity and puts an awful stain on the reputation you have (or ... had) as a serious Apple magazine with excellent reporting of FACT and unbiased opinions. I shall be cancelling my subscription and will not buy this magazine again in the future. Shame on you for such poor, stupid conduct.

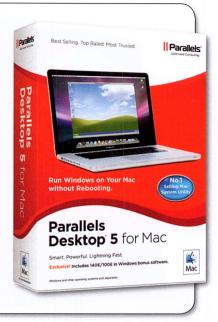
Thanks for your email and your feedback, Tapwater. We're sorry that you were offended by our joke. Besides your email we've had nothing but good responses both this year and for past April Fool-related jokes. By the way, we checked our files and found you're not actually a subscriber. – LP

Tapwater74

Via email

Each month, Conexus is giving away a prize to the reader who submits what we think is the most interesting letter. This month, the prize is a copy of Parallels Desktop 5 for Mac, worth \$119. Parallels 5 lets you seamlessly run Windows and Mac OS X side-by-side, drag-and-drop your files between operating systems, and run Windows software on your Apple computer without rebooting. It's the simple and easy way to use Windows – show as much or as little of the Windows interface as you like – supporting those new to Mac and the very experienced.

www.conexus.com.au



- Letters should be emailed to macworldeditor@niche. com.au with a subject header of "Letter to the Editor" or by post to: *Australian Macworld* Mailbox, 142 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205.
- Letters of fewer than 200 words are given preference. Comments posted to the forums on www.macworld.com. au are also eligible for the prize. We reserve the right to edit letters and probably will.
- To be eligible for the prize, you must include your full name and address, including state or territory.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS. Conexus letter of the month 1. Instructions on how to enter form part of these conditions of entry. 2. To enter sent lips or queries to maxworldedino@inche.com.au with a subject header of "Letter to the Editor". Entries will be judged by the editorial staff of *\textitation Australian *\textitation Macworld*. The judges' decision in relation to any aspect of the competition is final and binding on every person who enters. No correspondence will be entered into Chance plays no part in determining the winner(s). Each entry will be individually judged based on its degree of interest.

4. Employees, their immediate families and agencies associated with this competition are not permitted to enter. 5. The Promoter accepts no responsibility for late or misdirected entries. 6. The best entrylentries as determined by the judges will win the prize(s). 7.

The Promoter is neither responsible nor liable for any change in the value of the prize(s) is claimed. 8. The prize(s) is not transferable and will not be exchanged for cash. 9. The winner(s) will be notified by email.

10. All entries become the property of the Promoter. 11.

The collection, use and disclosure of personal information provided in connection with this competition is governed by the Privacy Notice 12. The Promoter is Niche Media Pty Ltd of 142 Dorcas Street, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205 Ph 03 9948 4900, (ABN 13 064 613 529).



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Mac + iPhone

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NEXT ISSUE....



GOAL-SCORING TVS

The 2010 FIFA World Cup is here, and we'll tell you how to choose the best big-screen TV to watch the South African spectacle on.

LAB TEST: Earbuds.

You can't go around the stores sticking their earbuds in your ears, so here's the next best thing - Australian Macworld's Lab Test of the latest models.



PLUS: OUR REGULAR SECTIONS

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Publisher

Niche Media

Associate Publisher

Liana Pappas

03 9948 4974 Editor

Dave Bullard

dave.bullard@niche.com.au

Online Editor

xavier.verhoeven@niche.com.au

Designer Hannah Ogilvie

hannah.ogilvie@niche.com.au

Production Coordinator

Alison Copley

alison.copley@niche.com.au

Nicole Gauci

nicole.gauci@niche.com.au



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South Melbourne, Victoria 3205

Tel: 03 9948 4900 / Fax: 03 9948 4999

Chairman and Publisher

Nicholas Dower Managing Director

Paul Lidgerwood

Financial Controller

Sonia Jurista

Studio Design Manager

Keely Atkins keely.atkins@niche.com.au

Digital Director

kate kendall@niche.com.au

Subscription Inquiries

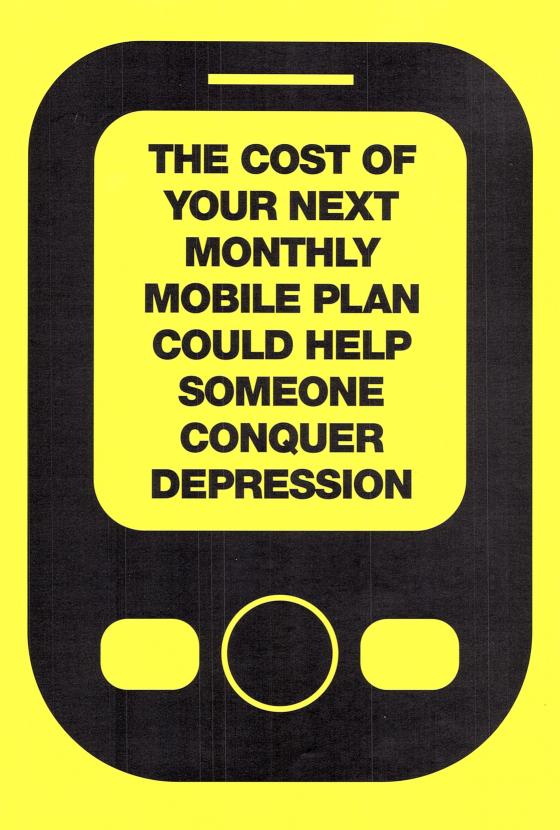
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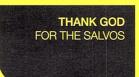
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It may not seem a lot, but the cost of your next monthly mobile plan can make a real difference. So can the cost of your monthly gym fees, or a tank of fuel. Perhaps your next game. Even your next cup of coffee. It can all help the Salvos in a big way. You can play a key role in helping those who desperately need support. Please give to The Salvation Army 2010 Red Shield Appeal and help us keep our door open for others.

Donate online at salvos.org.au/rsamac Call or SMS 'SHIELD1' to 13 SALVOS

Standard SMS rates apply. Service not available on Vodafone and 3 Networks.





RED SHIELD APPEAL



CINCH

www.irradiatedsoftware.com/cinch **PRODUCTIVITY**

If you frequently find yourself arranging two windows side by side - for example, two Finder windows to move files from one to the other - you need Cinch to make it easy. Drag any window (via its title bar) to the left edge of the screen, and you'll see an outline around the left half of your display. Release the mouse button, and the window is resized to fill that outline. Drag another window to the right, and that window fills the right half of the screen.

Price: US\$7 (about \$7.70)



SPACECONTROL

riotgames.se STORAGE

It's important to make sure you have enough free space on your boot volume: if your hard drive gets too full, its performance can suffer and you run the risk of losing data. Not only does SpaceControl show the amount of free space remaining on your startup volume, it also alerts you - via an on-screen warning, email, or both - if the amount of free space on your boot volume dips below a configurable threshold.

Price: Payment requested

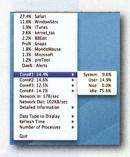


MINIUSAGE

bit.ly/7WQlfv UTILITIES

If you'd like to keep a closer eve on your Mac's performance, Miniusage could be your answer. A small menu-bar display shows your choice of data - CPU usage, incoming or outgoing network data rate, or (on a laptop) remaining battery level. It also shows a live-updated list of the processes using the most CPU resources and the percentage use of each core in a multicore machine. No memory usage, though.

Price: Donation to charity requested



LAUNCHCODES

pagehand.com/launchcodes UTILITIES

Snow Leopard (Mac OS X10.6) changed the rules regarding the way certain documents you create are opened. The gist is that legacy Mac OS creator codes - metadata stored with many files - are no longer used to determine which program opens which file(s). Launchcodes is a clever application that works around this issue by assigning itself as the program that opens the file types you specify. It then, in the background, passes the file off to your desired program.

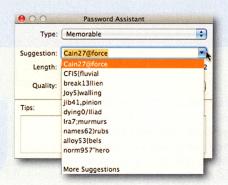
Price: US\$4.95 (about \$5.50)



PASSWORD ASSISTANT

www.codepoetry.net **SECURITY**

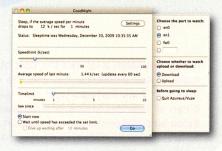
The key to good security is using secure passwords. Mac OS X includes a utility. called Password Assistant, for creating secure passwords, but doesn't make that utility easily accessible. A convenient approach can be found in codepoetry's identically named Password Assistant, which, when launched, opens OS X's Password Assistant. Price: Free



GOODNIGHT

members.inode.at/417486/goodnight **NETWORKING**

Sometimes you want your Mac to go to sleep after a download or network transfer finishes. GoodNight monitors your Mac's network activity and puts your Mac to sleep once traffic drops below a set threshold. You choose the network port, upload or download traffic, the 'speed limit' below which sleep is triggered. and a time limit which determines how long traffic must stay below your limit in order to trigger sleep. Price: £6 (about \$9)



GOOGLE DOCS

docs.google.com PRODUCTIVITY

Google is opening up Docs, its hosted office productivity suite, so that users can store any type of file in it. It is an important online storage component. Google is also raising the ceiling on file sizes to 250MB. Users of the stand-alone Docs suite will have 1GB of free storage for files stored in their native formats, with extra storage charged at US25c/GB per year (Google Apps users will be charged at US\$3.50/GB per year).

Price: Free up to 1GB



TRILLIAN

www.trillian.im INSTANT MESSAGING

If you've switched to a Mac from a PC, you might remember Trillian, the popular, multiprotocol instant messaging client for Windows. Cerulean Studios has now released an alpha build of Trillian for Mac. While it lacks many of the niceties of the Windows version, its basic functions work fine, including support for Trillian's Astra protocol, as well as for other common IM networks.

Price: Free (alpha version)



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FIRST AID

St John Ambulance Australia has released a resuscitation app in a bid to reduce the number of deaths by Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA), which kills about 20,000 Australians every year. Along with detailed instructions on checking for Danger, Response, Airway and Breathing, giving CPR and applying a Defibrillator (DRABCD), it also helps users find their nearest public access defibrillators.

St John Ambulance Australia. Price: \$2.49



SEARCH ENGINE

ACTRocket aims to speed up your iPhone and iPod touch web searches by allowing you to use the browser or site searches of your choice from one app. So you can type 'q ipad' to search Google for the word iPad, or 'y ipad' to use Yahoo! Results are displayed in the app's own browser. It comes preconfigured with popular search engines and websites, but you can add your own favourites and shortcuts as well.

Houdah Software. Price: \$1.19

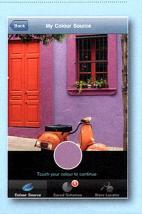


LIFESTYLE

Ballarat-based Haymes Paint has released a dead-handy app that lets amateur or professional decorators match any colour in the real world with a Haymes paint colour. You simply take a photo, then tap on any colour to match it. Even better, it suggests colour palettes and generates various schemes. Once you have your own scheme, you can save it and email it. Works very well indeed.

Autech Software and Design.

Price: Free



NAVIGATION

Mocal, from NSW-based Yapp Mobile, has a couple of points of difference over other GPS navigation apps. Designed "in Australia, for Australians" it offers users free use for a month, then a couple of subscription options. Mocal uses content from TrueLocal, Eatability, NAVTEQ onboard and Motormouth and displays the latest petrol prices.

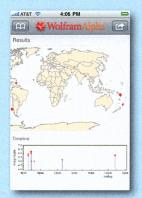
Yapp Mobile. Price: 30 days free, then \$9.99 for 30 days, \$49.99 a year or \$59.99 for three years.



REFERENCE

This well-done app delivers the same information you'd get for free from the web version of the Wolfram Alpha computational knowledge engine - and you can now buy it for \$2.49, a dramatic reduction from \$59.99. Wolfram Alpha does a terrific job of formatting its computational output specifically for the iPhone and iPod touch.

Wolfram Alpha. Price: \$2.49



UTILITIES

This beautifully designed app brings the power of a clipboard manager to your iPhone or iPod touch. Copy (or cut) a text snippet, photo, URL or anything else from within any iPhone app and then open Pastebot. It imports your clipboard data and stores it. You can keep it in a folder or load it for further action. A free Mac application provides a killer feature by letting you move clippings back and forth between your iPhone/iPod and Mac.

Tapbots. Price: \$3.99



014 AMW May 2010

All apps available from Apple's App Store through iTunes or directly from your iPhone or iPod touch.

REELDIRECTOR

VIDEO

Don't expect deep features from this video-editing app aimed primarily at iPhone 3GS users. However, you will get enough tools to piece together a basic movie, complete with transitions, background music, and end credits. The app offers some clever features, such as the abilities to record audio clips from within the app. and to mark in and out points so you can edit clips to an exact cut.

Nexvio. Price: \$9.99



TEXT EXPANDER UTILITIES

Like the Mac version of this typing utility, the mobile app creates text snippets such as email signatures and inserts them with a keyboard shortcut. Because third-party apps can't currently run in the background on the iPhone, you usually have to use a window to compose text with snippets. But the good news is, more than a dozen other apps offer built-in TextExpander support.

SmileOnMyMac. Price: \$5.99







Needs NoteBook

tickies. Scraps of paper. Web clippings. Meeting notes. Reminders. Take control of it all with Circus Ponies NoteBook. Get organized using a familiar notebook interface of pages, tabs, and sections. "Clip" web research,

e-mails and other content to your Notebooks for handy reference. Never miss a detail with voice-annotated notes you play back on your iPod. Diagram and sketch when words won't convey your thoughts. Track and sync your tasks



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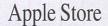
otebooks for detail with with NoteBook's patented Multidex™. Share your Notebooks as PDFs or websites. And much more. NoteBook has everything you need to get organized.

"At last — get organized! Try NoteBook for yourself right now, FREE for 30 days" www.circusponies.com/trialmwau

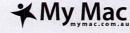


CIRCUS PONIES"
NoteBook

















It's been one of the mosttalked-about new products the world has seen, but Apple's ambitious iPad tablet computer has made an impressive debut and has won over some of its most ardent pre-launch critics. JASON SNELL is impressed, but says there's room for

FIRST REVIEW

I t was hyped and ripped before it even had a name, and after it was announced it was both praised and panned. Apple's iPad has been the subject of debates about the future of technology and media, and massive speculation about whether people will really want to buy and use it.

Without a doubt, it's remarkably easy to dump a heap of existential baggage on the iPad. It's likely that its existence is a direct repudiation of the last 25 years of computer interfaces, an era kicked off by Apple itself. It's a product in a category – tablet computers – that has been a flop despite nearly a decade of hype.

But before we get into the big, existential questions about the iPad and what it means for life on Earth, it's probably a good idea to look at what the product actually is: a solid glass-and-metal slab of high technology.

HOLDING THE SLAB

improvement.

The iPad may be the most impressive piece of Apple hardware I have ever handled. It weighs 680g – much heavier than an iPhone, but much lighter than a laptop. The front is almost entirely glass, save a thin aluminium frame at the edge. The back is a gently curved plate of anodised aluminium with a black Apple logo smack in the middle.

The iPad is designed to be held and carried, and it couldn't have felt more solid. What my senses told me is that this is



not a delicate piece of technology to be coddled, but a rugged device that I can tote wherever I want to go. (Yes, I know some of that feeling is an illusion – it would probably be a bad idea to hurl the iPad like a ball of pizza dough. But that doesn't change the fact that it feels nigh indestructible.)

The iPad's touchscreen is 9.7in, with a resolution of 1024 x 768 pixels. That's the traditional 4:3 aspect ratio found on older TV sets, as opposed to the 16:9 ratio favoured by modern HDTVs. The screen resolution is 132 pixels per inch, less than the 163 pixels per inch found on the iPhone.

The iPad's glass front also creates a bezel which is a good place to put your thumbs so you can keep a solid grip without interfering with the touchscreen.

I found the iPad's screen to be extremely bright, with vibrant colour and a broad viewing angle. I absentmindedly set my iPad down on my coffee table while it was displaying an article within Instapaper Pro, and was surprised to notice that I could clearly read the text despite the extreme angle, thanks to the same in-plane switching (IPS) technology used in iMac displays.

(At a certain angle I could also see an array of fingerprints – and boy, does this screen collect them. Fortunately, it's got the same oil-repellent coating as the screen on the iPhone 3GS, meaning one quick wipe with a sleeve and they're history.)

iPad (Wi-Fi 16/32GB)

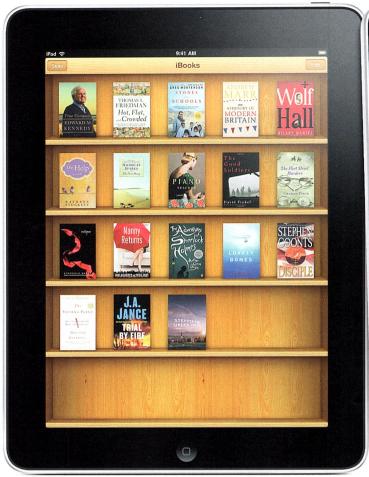
Apple, www.apple.com.au

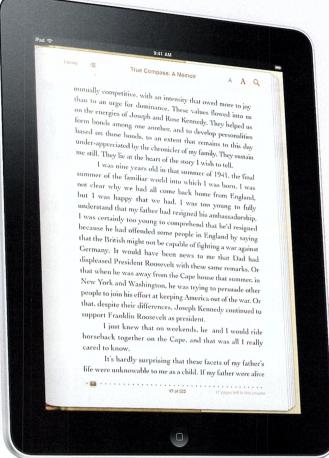
RRP Unavailable at time of publication



Now about the size of that screen. When the iPad was announced, one of the common criticisms of the product was that it's just a bigger version of the iPod touch. That's true so far as it goes, but I suspect a lot of the people who said it didn't understand just how vital that increased screen real-estate – the iPad has five times as many pixels as the iPhone or iPod touch – really is.

Sure, if the interfaces of iPad apps were just scaled-up versions of iPhone apps (such as you get if you run iPhone-only apps on the iPad), the iPad would be the technological equivalent of one of those oversized novelty cheques presented to game show winners. But what the additional pixels really allow are new, richer and more complex interactions.





On the iPhone, an app like Mail is a series of single screens, with the user constantly burrowing down and then backing up. The iPad changes that experience by displaying the body of messages in their own capacious pane, while your mailboxes and lists of messages fight over a smaller pane or, in portrait orientation, a pop-over element.

Beyond the more sophisticated interface possibilities, the iPad's large screen opens the door for new gestures that wouldn't work on a pocketable device. You can put lots of fingers (and, indeed, hands) on the iPad to type or to interact. This is one of those areas where the whole is more than the sum of its parts, and people who disparage the iPad as merely a hyper-thyroidal iPhone are failing to see the bigger picture.

SPECS AND SPEEDS

With the iPhone and iPod touch, Apple has been reluctant to talk about processors and speeds, preferring to treat those products as magical black boxes. But we must forgive Apple for crowing a little bit about the processor that powers the iPad because it was custom-designed by Apple itself.

The new A4 processor, running at 1GHz, is a 'system on a chip' –in other words, it was built to run the iPad, not chosen from a parts list and adapted to work for the iPad.

Geeky chip talk aside, the iPad flies. It was fast at almost everything I threw at it. The only times I found myself waiting were either for content to download or for one of the iWork apps to convert a file into its native file format.

Games played smoothly, with gorgeous graphics. There's no lag when panning and zooming around large images. Any touch-based device stands or falls based on how quickly and smoothly the content can react to the movement of fingers. The iPad passes that test masterfully.

As a bare measure of speed, I ran the SunSpider JavaScript performance test from within the iPad's Safari browser. The iPad passed the tests in 10.4 seconds. Last September I ran that same test on every iPhone OS model ever released, and the fastest device of the lot (the iPhone 3GS) ran the test in 15.5 seconds. (In contrast, the original iPhone took 43 seconds to run that test.) So the iPad has taken the crown as the fastest iPhone OS device on the planet.

Apple hasn't released details of the battery that's powering the iPad, but whatever combination of battery and power efficiency is lurking behind that aluminium back, it's impressive. Apple boasts a 10-hour battery life for the iPad, and the real-world life is even longer. If you charge the iPad overnight, you can pretty much use it the whole day.

TYPING ON THE IPAD

The iPad's software keyboard is more 'typeable' than I would have ever thought possible. This is not to say that it's a suitable equivalent for a hardware keyboard – it's not, and Apple has admitted it by offering a Keyboard Dock as an optional accessory. But with some focus and a little practice, I was able to type with both hands at a decent enough pace.

The keyboard in landscape mode isn't quite the size of a real keyboard, but it's close, and once you've got both hands on the keyboard you can really start picking up speed.

The software keyboard makes good use of the shift keys, giving you quick access to two extra punctuation symbols. Unfortunately, there isn't enough room to include the apostrophe or quotation mark on the first level of the keyboard, and those symbols and the numbers were the speed bumps in my otherwise passable typing sessions.

The Keyboard Dock works well if you're sitting at a desk, but in general I think more people will like typing with a Bluetooth keyboard like Apple's tiny Wireless Keyboard. (You'll need to use a case, stand, or convenient box to prop up the iPad at a good angle for viewing while you type.)

IPAD AS READING DEVICE

One of the most talked-about aspects of the iPad is its potential as a reading device, most specifically as a competitor to ebook readers such as Amazon's Kindle. There's also been quite a bit of conjecture about the iPad's ability to singlehandedly save, transform, or otherwise alter the downward trajectory of the magazine and newspaper industries. (That's a lot of drama to pack into one gadget!)

The iPad is quite a bit heavier than the Kindle, and its backlit LED display couldn't be more different. The Kindle fails in dark conditions, because it can't light itself. And of course, the iPad presents everything in glorious colour.

I suspect many people expect the iPad to put the Kindle out to pasture, but I'm not entirely convinced. What the Kindle has going for it is its simplicity as a unitasker. The Kindle does one thing well: allow you to read books. (It also lets you read magazines and newspapers, though it does that a bit less well – but then again, Apple's iBooks app doesn't support magazines or newspapers at all.)

It's cheaper than the iPad, and will presumably get cheaper still in the face of such stiff competition. If a friend or relative came to me and said that all they wanted was a book reader, I would happily endorse the Kindle. What the iPad offers is, quite simply, more. Competing merely as an ebook reader, it's a tight race, but the iPad's boundaries go far past where the Kindle was ever intended to go.

IPAD AS MULTIMEDIA PLAYER

Like pretty much every product Apple makes these days, the iPad is a capable entertainment device. There's an iPod app for music playback; a Videos app for movie, TV show and video podcast playback; a self-explanatory YouTube app; and of course an iTunes app to buy and download content.

The iPod app is a hybrid of the iPhone's iPod app and the desktop version of iTunes. It's got the familiar iTunes play controls at the top and a source list on the left, letting you select different playlists or mixes. A set of tab buttons at the bottom let you sort your music library in different ways. You can edit playlists and create new ones with custom names, both firsts for an iPhone OS-based device.

And yet I find the iPad's iPod app a bit disappointing. When you play a track, the interface vanishes and is replaced by the track's album art, which fills the screen. Quite frankly, I'm not that interested in album art. I'd rather just stay in the iPod interface, so I can see what other tracks are coming next. (You can get back to that view by tapping on the album art, then tapping a back button.)

Another missing feature that would make sense on the iPad is the ability to connect to iTunes shared libraries. As I write this, I'm listening to music on my MacBook that's streaming from a Mac mini in another room of my house. Having access to shared music (and videos, for that matter) would seem a natural for a device like the iPad, but that feature's not there. Wouldn't the iPad make a wonderful, portable, self-contained version of the Apple TV? I think so, but none of those features are here. If it's not loaded via iTunes, Apple's apps won't play it.

The Videos app is similarly functional yet a bit disappointing. Movies and TV shows are identified by their cover art; if a particular movie's poster is obscure, you'll have to tap on the image in order to discover what movie it is. Displaying text with a movie or show's title would be nice, at least as an option. (So would a simple alphabetical list.) Once you've tapped into a movie or TV show, the information screen is attractive. TV series, in particular, offer a mountain of data: episode titles, air dates, ratings information, and lengthy synopses.

With most movies and TV shows these days shot in 16:9 (and more extreme) aspect ratios, the iPad's 4:3 screen means most video content will display with large letterbox bars at top and bottom. Double-tapping on the image will zoom you all the



MACWORLD Feature

way in, cutting off the image sides. It's a nice compromise, yet I kept wishing I could zoom to an interim step. The general high quality of the iPad's display means that movies and TV shows end up looking beautiful, and the iPad's surprisingly loud and clear speaker means you can watch without headphones and still have a pretty good experience.

IPAD AS A LAPTOP ALTERNATIVE

During the run-up to the iPad's debut in January, many thought it would be a device designed solely for media playback. Apple challenged that by announcing iPad versions of its three iWork Mac applications – Pages, Keynote and Numbers. Throw in the ability to type on an external keyboard, and you got the distinct impression that Apple was trying to make the case that the iPad is a business tool and a

The whole is more than the sum of its parts, and people who disparage the iPad as merely a hyper-thyroidal iPhone are failing to see the bigger picture."



true laptop alternative. So can the iPad truly replace a laptop? Well, it all depends on what you use your laptop for.

The iPad isn't going to replace a MacBook Pro anytime soon. But let's face it: there are plenty of tasks that we currently use laptops for (checking email and Twitter, surfing the web, looking up movies and actors on IMDB) that don't really tap the power of a laptop. These are the tasks the iPad is perfectly suited for. If you've considered buying a cheap laptop to keep around the family room in order to access the Internet, the iPad would fit the bill perfectly.

back and read, watch, or listen. When I needed to lean forward, things got a little more complicated.

The iWork applications are a little rough around the edges, but they're truly groundbreaking. I am amazed at the amount of functionality that has been crammed into each of those three apps. The three iWork apps seem good for light editing and displaying files, but using them to create important business documents from scratch seems much more daunting.

For me, the iPad excelled at tasks where I could lean

THE ONBOARD APPS

Safari is, in many ways, the centrepiece app on the iPad. But the iPad's other built-in apps aren't too shabby, either. They all take advantage of the iPad's screen size in clever and sometimes subtle ways, and will serve as templates for iPad app developers everywhere: these apps are Apple's examples of what iPad software should be.

Mail. A fusion of the iPhone Mail program and the version of Mail on the Mac, this is pretty and functional, though there's no unified Inbox and there's still a bit too much sliding around between mailboxes for my tastes, a way in which the app is a bit too close to its iPhone cousin. (A popover window that lets you choose from your available mailboxes on all accounts would be nice, for example.)

Calendar. This app has a nice embossed background reminiscent of a physical day-planner, but beyond that it's very much like Apple's iCal application for Mac OS X. Only I think the iPad's Calendar app is better than iCal. It feels more responsive, looks better, and provides more flexible views.

Contacts. This is a basic address book (also with a pretty frame reminiscent of a physical address book).

Notes. Here we have an overgrown version of the Notes app for the iPhone, complete with its insistence on lined yellow paper and the annoying Marker Felt typeface. The App Store will soon be flooded with plenty of alternatives.

Maps. Though it's familiar to anyone who's used Maps on the iPhone, Maps offers a number of nice improvements. The sheer size of the iPad screen makes Maps that much more attractive. There's a new Terrain view that puts your surroundings in graphic relief. A blue overlay bar lets you navigate driving directions without getting in your way.

Photos. This is an app some people will probably not use on the iPad – after all, the device has no camera. But other people will probably come to love Photos most of all. It's a beautifully designed app, with photo galleries displayed in

stacks of images that you can pinch open and closed with two fingers. The iPad makes a fantastic photo album (and digital photo frame), thanks again to that big screen. If you sync the iPad with iPhoto, Photos will also let you browse via iPhoto's Events. Faces and Places views.

Just about the only thing Photos doesn't do is let you edit your images. That's no big deal when you're using it as a photo frame, but an iPad accessory will allow you to import photos and videos from your digital cameras into the iPad, making it a great photographer's companion as well. Presumably many third-party apps will rise to take on the challenge of cataloguing, selecting and editing of photos right on the iPad.

The iPhone apps Weather, Stocks, Clock, Calculator, Voice Memos and Compass have all been omitted. But there are free replacements for most of them on the App Store, and they're generally better than their Apple equivalents.

The iPad, even more than the iPhone, is crying out for the ability to drop small widget-like apps onto the home screen. Who needs a full-fledged, full-screen Weather app when a small Weather widget with the current temperature and forecast could easily live on one of the iPad's home screens?

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The iPad is a wholly new product, though it will be familiar to anyone

who has used an iPhone or iPod touch. It is both a futuristic gadget the likes of which we've never seen before and a version-one device that will soon be viewed with the same nostalgia-tinged contempt we have for the original iPod.

Is the iPad a good product? Undeniably, enthusiastically, yes. It's a fantastic piece of hardware, inside and out, but more than that, it's the apotheosis of Apple's design philosophy, synthesising cutting-edge hardware design with innovative system and application software into a single, unified product. Holding the iPad feels like you're holding the future, in a "I can't believe I'm actually here" way.

Should you buy one? That depends. If you want the latest you-beaut, cutting-edge gadget, you will find no better. If you want an internet-connected device that fits between smartphone and PC you'll find the iPad a joy.

One day, devices like this may change the way we view computers and tech. But right now, I don't believe the iPad is going to make anyone stop using their main Mac or PC. If you were in the market for an ebook reader or a supplemental laptop, though, I'd give those plans a serious re-think.



For the latest iPad news and views go to www.macworld.com.au



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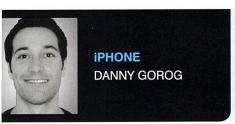
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- · create playlists and schedules
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Your Screens



Streaming radio

ou can look as hard as you want at the iPhone spec sheet but one thing that you won't find built-in is a radio. Never mind that FM tuners have been a standard inclusion on most phones for many years, and forget the fact that even the humble iPod nano now comes standard with an FM radio.

But don't despair. As Apple says, "There's an app for that." And so it is for radio too.

To stay relevant, most radio stations now broadcast over the internet too, and a few enterprising developers have picked up on the signal and created iPhone apps that let you tune in. All you need is an iPhone, an App and a healthy data plan.

Internet radio broadcasts, like everything else in the digital world come in many shapes and sizes. There are high-bandwidth streams, low-bandwidth streams, streams in MP3 and streams in Real or WMV. Luckily for you and iPhone all the apps that tap into internet radio deal with these streams automatically.

I'm still hoping that Apple will add a radio to the next generation iPhone, but until then, check out these apps:

Tune In Radio (\$2.49)

This is the app that everyone's talking about at the moment, and in my testing seems to be the easiest to use, provides the greatest range of stations and has some great additional features that make up for the iPhone's lack of multitasking.

First, at the core, Tune In Radio lets you listen to basically any radio station in the world. I couldn't find any that I couldn't access, and in particular Tune In Radio has access to many Australian radio stations that other similar apps didn't seem to find.

The app uses a service called RadioTime (www.radiotime.com) to provide station information, and you can either search or browse the info. Tune in Radio is also geo-aware, so it presents you with Local Radio stations too.

Before you select the feed you want to listen to, you'll notice a little orange badge with a number. This signifies the streaming rate, which is a proxy for quality. For example, a 48 stream is 48 kbps, or about 6 kilobytes per second.

In terms of data, if you spent 30 minutes listening to a 128 kbps stream on the way to work, you'd be consuming about 11MB of data.

Once the stream is playing you can also play and pause the stream



Tune In Radio lets you listen to basically any radio station in the world."

or tap the record button to record the stream to your iPhone for later listening.

There's also a small Options button which is where Tune in Radio differentiates itself from the competition. First, if a QuickTime or MP3 stream is available, Tune in Radio will offer to launch the stream in Safari for you, which means you can actually keep the stream playing in the background while you do other things on your iPhone. If a QuickTime stream doesn't exist, Tune in Radio offers you the next best thing; an in-app web browser that means you can continue to listen to the stream while you're surfing.

There's also a built-in sleep timer, a schedule of what's on, and suggestions on other stations that are similar to the one you're listening to.

Internet Radio Box (\$1.19)

Similar to Tune In Radio, Internet Radio Box provides access to over 30,000 radio stations from the RadioBox and Shoutcast radio directory. It's got similar features to Tune In Radio and even includes the ability to automatically block a stream from using 3G, useful if you're on a restricted or expensive data plan.

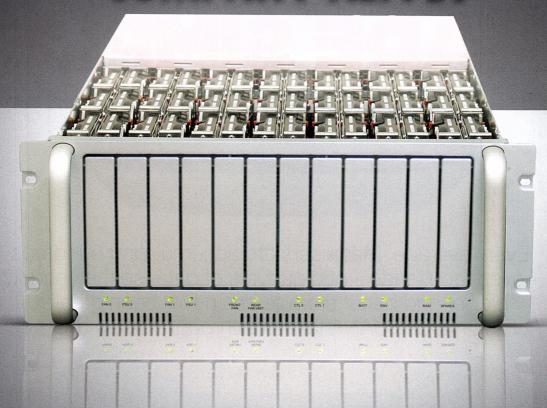
There's also a built-in web browser, but overall I preferred the interface and performance of Tune In Radio.

Radio (\$1.19)

Radio also uses the Shoutcast radio directory to provide access to thousands of radio streams, and has some extra social features like the ability to share the information about the station you are listening to via Facebook or Twitter.



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torage – you can never have enough. While the amount of data we retain and access has grown almost exponentially, the technology we use is largely unchanged. The increase in capacity has come through incremental improvements rather than revolutionary change, but that's changing now.

The advent of cloud computing has spawned an almost infinite amount of offsite storage that can be cheaply and easily accessed through an internet connection. The great benefit is that they store your data far away from your computer, making them a worthwhile option for backing up important data.

The decreasing cost of solid state drives, or SSDs, has seen them a become viable storage option. SSDs pack a bunch of solid state memory into the same form factor as a standard hard drive and use the same interface, SATA, for connecting to the computer. This makes them an alternative to normal hard drives.

SMALL AND PORTABLE

There are many portable storage choices but most fall into three main groups: memory cards, USB flash drives and portable hard drives.

Memory cards come in many different shapes and sizes. In the early days Compact Flash was king. CF remains popular, particularly with professional photographers, and spawned the Microdrive standard that took the CF form factor but squeezed in a 1in hard disk. The Microdrive was used in the iPod mini.

However, CF is too large for many portable devices. The Multimedia Card (MMC) and Secure Digital (SD) formats are about the same size as a postage stamp, with the MMC being slightly thinner. SD is the de facto standard in consumer digital cameras and starting to push into the pro market with some cameras now offering both CF and SD slots to aid professional snappers in the transition.

The original SD format was limited to just 4GB, with the SDHC format boosting that to 32GB. The newer SDXC format boosts capacity to 2TB. All look the same but SDXC cards may not be read in SDHC slots. This is significant for Mac owners as the slots in the latest Macs only support SDHC.

Sony established its own standard, Memory Stick, and its successors Memory Stick Pro, Duo, Pro Duo and Micro. However, at the Consumer Electronic Show in January, Sony announced that it will be using the SD format in some of its new products as well as selling its own SD cards.

USB flash drives are this generation's floppy disk.

Capacities have reached hard disk levels – Kingston recently announced a 256GB USB drive – and come in all sorts of shapes and sizes.

SPINNING VS SOLID STATE

For the last 25 years or so, data storage has been using the same technology. Metal platters store our data and are read by a head that skips across the surface. It's similar in concept but technically different to the way an old vinyl record was read using a needle.

In the late 1990s, solid state memory – which had been in use as RAM in our systems – began to fall in price. The prices in those early days ran in excess of \$100 per megabyte, but we're now reaching a point at which prices are getting close to standard desktop hard drives.

Solid State Drives, or SSDs, use flash memory for data storage combined with the standard interfaces, or connectors, used by hard drives.

SSDs offer significant benefits over older technologies. They're faster than spinning drives because they're not relying on a mechanical system. Traditional hard drives rely on the platters spinning and a head finding each data bit and relaying the information to the processor and other computer subsystems.

Also, SSDs are generally considered to be more power efficient and robust. Although Apple introduced hard disk protection so that when a MacBook Pro is suddenly moved, the motion is sensed and the hard disk heads are parked so that they don't skate over the disk surface, this doesn't protect drives from concussive damage that can result in misalignment of the drive spindle, making a hard drive

LaCie CooKey

While many of us call USB flash drives 'memory keys' it took LaCie to actually make a flash drive that really looks like a key. The CooKey looks like an actual key, complete with hole for easily popping it onto a keyring.

There's no installation process to go through — we plugged the CooKey in and a few seconds later it was ready to use. Performance wasn't great, though, with 1.5GB of data taking about 2 minutes and 20 seconds to copy to the CooKey. The return trip was far faster, taking just 43 seconds.

Although the CooKey has great looks, these don't overcome the slow write performance — particularly as LaCie does charge a premium for its design.

LaCie, www.lacie.com.au

Pros: Easy to carry

Cons: Performance

RRP: \$69 for 8GB





Apple iDisk

Apple's MobileMe service offers an iDisk as part of its suite of products.

We used iDisk's browser-based interface to share a file. Uploading was easy and we then shared the file by sending a link using a simple online form.

However, using a local version of the iDisk as a working folder so that our files were constantly backed up was less effective. as syncing was too slow and left us constantly wondering if it was working correctly. Apple also makes the MobileMe iDisk app for iPhone.

We'd suggest that while MobileMe offers some excellent services — Find My iPhone is extremely valuable — it's not worth the \$119 if online storage was our main priority.

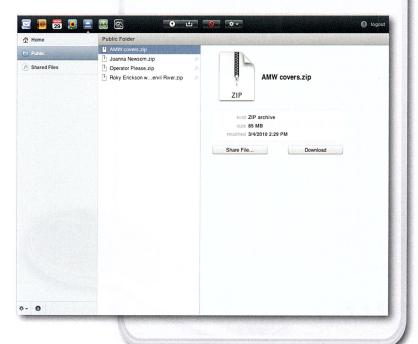
Apple, www.me.com

Pros: Easy file sharing

Cons: Slow

RRP: \$119





unreadable. SSDs lack moving parts and aren't susceptible to the same damage.

However, there are some gotchas to watch out for. SSDs can only be written to a finite number of times, and older SSDs suffer performance degradation over time.

When you erase data on a disk, what actually happens is that the data isn't really erased. Rather, that data block is made available for a future write. With an SSD, that subsequent write will require the data block to be cleared.

Modern SSDs erase the data block, sometimes called 'garbage collection' so that future writes are faster. Older drives don't do the garbage collection so as a drive gets older and is used more, its performance begins to flag. The big advantage with spinning hard drives is that they offer excellent bang for buck. Whereas a 256GB SSD can cost upwards of \$900, you can pick up a 500GB 2.5in laptop hard drive for under \$100.

It's also worth understanding that not all hardware will benefit from the improved performance that SSD can offer.

Modern drives connect to the rest of the computer over the SATA interface standard. As with many computer connection technologies, SATA has undergone revisions and improvements since its acceptance as a standard. The original

Dropbox

Dropbox is a sensational service. Once the Dropbox application is running it syncs a folder on your Mac back to the cloud. Data can be private or public.

If you work on more than one computer or flip between a Mac and a PC you can have a common account so that you can keep your files up to date on all your computers.

Performance was excellent with syncing almost instant — even over a 3G mobile network. There's also an iPhone app. With up to 100GB of storage available, Dropbox is a reliable service that offers an offsite backup solution and collaboration tool.

Dropbox, www.dropbox.com

Pros: Fast; reliable

Cons: None

RRP: Free for 2GB, US\$9.99/month

or US\$99/year for 50GB, US\$19.99 /month

or US\$199/year for 100GB

*

Amazon S3

Amazon's Simple Storage Service, or S3, offers massive amounts of storage using a 'pay as you use' pricing system. S3 is charged by both storage and data transfers.

Amazon is betting that customers see the reliability of its services and are confident that Amazon can deliver this to S3 customers.

If you need to distribute large files S3 is a great way to bolster your online storage needs. We connected to our S3 account using Cyberduck — a Mac FTP client that supports access to S3. It's donationware, and can be found at cyberduck.ch

Offering over 5000TB of storage, S3 is a great way to get lots of storage delivered quickly.

Amazon S3, aws.amazon.com

Pros: Huge capacity; fast

Cons: Fiddly to set up

RRP: from \$0.15 per GB



SATA, Revision 1.0 offered a speed of 1.5Gb/s. Revision 2.0 boosted that to 3Gb/s with the most recent Revision 3.0 doubling that to 6Gb/s. However, it's worth noting that Apple doesn't officially support drives that use revision 3.0.

The most recent MacBook Pros are capable of using SATA Revision 3.0 drives but they are not officially supported so it's possible that installing a recent SSD may not deliver the full benefit you expect. Benchmarking we've performed suggests that a performance level between Revisions 2.0 and 3.0 is possible.

FOR THE OFFICE - NAS AND RAID

It wasn't long ago that consumer and small office storage was limited to external cases with a single drive. However, the plunging price of disk space and the commoditisation of network attached storage (NAS) devices has put multiterabyte systems into almost everyone's reach.

A NAS is a computer that manages a collection of hard drives to work together in a coordinated way. Those hard drives can be arranged in a number of different ways. Rather than being directly connected to your Mac using USB or FireWire, a NAS connects to your computer over Ethernet.

A JBOD, or Just a Bunch Of Disks, set up takes all the drives in the unit and either treats them as either a Solid-state drives can only be written to a finite number of times, and older SSDs suffer performance degradation over time."

single volume, so that their capacity is concatenated, or as separate drives. With JBOD there's no redundancy. The failure of a disk results in loss of data.

A more common way of managing a group of drives in a NAS is to configure them in a RAID, or Redundant Array of Inexpensive Drives. Unlike JBOD, most RAID arrangements provide a degree of redundancy.

RAID0 takes multiple drives and treats them as a single volume. While this tends to offer excellent performance, the failure of any one drive in the array can lead to 100 percent data loss. RAID1 is used with pairs of drives. When you write your data to a RAID1 array the data is actually written to two drives at the same time. If one drive in the array fails your data is safe.

Rocstor Airhawk A9

With its matte black rubberised casing and distinctive diamond embossed shape, the Rocstor Airhawk A9 stands out in a product category dominated by utilitarian, boring boxes.

Connectivity is covered off with FW800, FW400 and USB 2. All the cables and a slipcase come with the drive.

Performance was excellent. 1.5GB of data transferred to the A9 in just 22 seconds, or about 572Mpbs, over FW800. The return trip took the same amount of time.

Our only criticism of the Airhawk A9 is price. A quick scan of resellers reveals 500GB drives cost less than \$100 and enclosures are as little as \$20. Rocstor charges a significant premium for its devices.

Rocstor, www.rocstor.com

Pros: Robust; fast

Cons: Expensive

RRP: \$290

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Using the PhotoFast G-Monster V5 SSD we simultaneously launched every program in our Applications folder – that took just 20 seconds."

Probably the most common type of RAID is RAID5. This type of array is used with three or more drives. When you write your data, each bit is copied to two places. If one drive in the array fails, your data is still safe.

When shopping for a NAS, make sure it supports enough drives to accommodate your growing data needs. Most NAS devices let you start with only a subset of the drive bays filled, allowing you to add more as your requirements grow. We'd suggest that a NAS that supports at least four drives is a minimum requirement for a small office.

If you're planning to keep the unit on your desk make sure it's not too loud. A NAS needs fans to keep the drives cool. If you're planning to keep the NAS in a utility space then the noise level is less of a consideration.

PhotoFast G-Monster V5

The PhotoFast G-Monster V5 solid-state drive delivered a serious speed boost to the MacBook Pro we tested, transforming it into one of the fastest Macs we've ever used.

Replacement of the original disk with the SSD can be done by technically minded end-users, though we'd recommend getting a trained technician to do the work.

A cold start took just 15 seconds while a warm reboot doubled that. We simultaneously launched every program in our Applications folder — that took just 20 seconds.

The PhotoFast G-Monster V5 drive is targeted at those needing premium performance. It's not cheap but delivers performance in spades.

Solid State Central, www.solidstatecentral.com.au

Pros: Fast

Cons: Expensive

RRP: \$1510 for 256GB

OWC Express USB 2.0 Enclosure

If you ever swap out the hard drive from your portable Mac you may wonder what to do with the spare drive. One solution is to put the drive into the OWC Express USB 2.0 Enclosure and use it as an external drive.

The enclosure is held together with just two screws. Installing the drive simply required that we slide the drive in so that the connector attached correctly. We then closed the case and the drive was ready to use over USB 2.0 using the included cable.

If you're looking for a simple way to use a spare laptop hard drive, the OWC Express USB 2.0 Enclosure will do the job nicely.

OWC, www.macsales.com

Pros: Easy to use

Cons: None

RRP: US\$19 (about \$21) + shipping



Desktop hard drive units use the same disks as regular computers. These aren't designed to be portable as they require a power supply – they need more power than can be supplied over USB or FireWire. Most contain a single drive although we're starting to see dual-disk units that use either RAID0 or RAID1.

THE CLOUD

Cloud computing is the biggest buzzword of recent times. Cloud computing services extend our computer so that storage and processing capability from a remote server are delivered to the desktop.

Storage applications that exist on the internet cloud are very convenient. As well as giving you access to your data through any browser, they usually integrate with the Finder so that using them is as simple as using a folder or volume.

The challenge with cloud services is finding one that offers sufficient space, performance and is provided by a reputable company that isn't likely to collapse, leaving you without access to your data.

Online services can kill several important birds with one stone. If you switch between different computers when you work, say between an iMac in the office and a MacBook when you travel, then having a cloud storage system lets you easily sync your work files between computers. Just install the service to all the computers you use and log into the service using the same account on each computer.

Another advantage is that they make sharing large files easy. Rather than trying to email large files or set up an FTP account on your web server, it's easy to create a secure, shared folder for sharing files. Most services even let you create a place for your contacts to drop files for you.

While Time Machine does a good job it generally fails in one important way – the backup is usually kept near the computer. If your house or office is destroyed then it's likely that you'll lose your backup as well. Cloud services offer a way of storing important data offsite.

When choosing cloud storage services, pay close attention to the pricing model. Some charge a flat fee for a specific amount of storage while others have more complex systems that charge on both capacity and use. That may make them cheaper in the long run but the set up cost, as you send the first few gigabytes of data up, may be higher than expected. As usual, make sure you read the fine print.

Most services offer a free trial so you can try before you buy. This is important as some services that are highly rated in the US just don't cut the mustard here.

Windows Live SkyDrive

It might surprise many to see us reviewing a Windows Live product in these pages but Microsoft's SkyDrive service dishes up a huge 25GB of online space at no cost. Access to the service requires a Windows Live account but you can use your existing email address for that

Performance was very good and synchronisation could be either manual or automatic.

The only issue we had was that most of the settings are changed through the SkyDrive website rather than locally. It wasn't really a big deal — just different to what we expected.

While SkyDrive isn't the most Mac-friendly option it offers plenty of space and good performance.

Windows Live, skydrive.live.com

Pros: Huge storage

Cons: Quirky setup

RRP: Free

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OWC Mercury Elite-AL Pro mini

If you're after a high performance external drive with plenty of connectivity options then the Mercury Elite-AL Pro mini will fit the bill. It boasts FW800 and USB 2, with eSATA connectivity offering some future proofing should Apple decide to add this connector to its range.

Performance was very good. We were able to copy 1.5GB of data to the drive over FW800 in under 26 seconds, translating to about 500Mbps. The return trip took just 20 seconds — a transfer rate of about 630Mbps. While that's under the theoretical limit of FW800 it's a very solid result.

The top model is the first 1TB 2.5in 'quad interface' bus powered portable storage solution on the market. If you're after a solidly made, robust and fast external drive unit then the OWC Mercury Elite-AL Pro mini should be on your shortlist.

OWC, www.macsales.com

Pros: Lots of connection options

Cons: Noisy

RRP: from US\$115 (about \$125) + shipping

for 250GB



W MUSIC



GLOVES

By Operator Please Virgin

While much of the hype around the first album from Gold Coast five-piece Operator Please was focused on the fact they were such little tackers, it was clear that they also possessed a strong musical sensibility. With the novelty now worn off they prove to be very competent writers and performers as this album delivers exciting electro-pop. — TM



HAVE ONE ON ME

By Joanna Newsom Spunk

Avant-garde folkie Joanna Newsom has opted to release a two-hour-long triple-album for her third outing. An often surreal journey that recalls Kate Miller-Heidke or Björk in its treading of the line between lovably quirky and plain nutty, Newsom's epic is admirable if only for its grand ambition. Also noteworthy is her liberal use of the harp, an instrument rarely seen outside of dodgy TV flashback sequences. — TM



2012

Sony Pictures

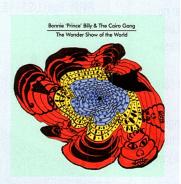
The disaster movie 2012 starts off well, with tension mounting nicely as the world builds to a cataclysmic end due to overheating of the core. But then it descends into farce as the heroes stay juuuuust ahead of earthquakes, volcanic explosions and floods — in just about every scene. It's worth watching, but it could have been so much better. — DB



THE WONDER SHOW OF THE WORLD

By Bonnie 'Prince' Billy and The Cairo Gang Spunk

Softly spoken and leisurely paced (at times annoyingly so, to the point where it sounds like Billy himself might nod off mid-verse), this is an album to warm the background rather than take the spotlight. Fans of Angus and Julia Stone will dig the tranquil folk harmonies, but many will find the unwaveringly sleepy tempo a little frustrating. — TM



ENGINEERING CONNECTIONS

SBS/Madman

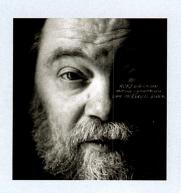
The *Top Gear* crew are making some great documentaries outside that top-rated show. James May has his excellent *Toy Stories*, and Richard 'Hamster' Hammond presents the just-as-good *Engineering Connections*. In Series 2 he again traces the DNA of the world's most advanced products and structures, looking at the Sydney Opera House. *HMS Illustrious* and others. – DB



TRUE LOVE CAST OUT ALL EVIL

By Roky Erickson with Okkervil River Spunk

At 62, Texan Roger 'Roky' Erickson has been round the block once or twice. This album sees him team up with youngsters Okkervil River; a cross-generational venture that brings to mind the Neil Young/Pearl Jam project. Themes of life, love and loss are tackled with Roky's weathered wisdom, and given an extra shot of energy by his new backing band. — TM



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Reviews by Dave Bullard, Tyler Mathis, Lex Friedman, Sarah Jacobsson

CASTLE

Buena Vista Home Entertainment

Castle is one of those rare TV series that got me hooked from the first five minutes. Crime novelist Rick Castle begins assisting the New York police when the murders described in his books begin appearing in real life. It's not a new concept, but the humour, drama and production quality really stand out. And the fact his print heroine is based on the cop he's 'helping' is a nice twist. — DB



ROME: TOTAL WAR GOLD EDITION

PLATFORM: Mac PUBLISHER: Feral Interactive

This one of those rare games that delivers the total package. You build an empire a la *Civilization* in turn-based play, but as part of this you must fight real-time battles. Once you get past the fairly old-school graphics you get hooked by the addictive gameplay. This edition includes the original game and the *Barbarian Invasion* expansion. **Price: \$44.95** – DB



A D C K

PLATFORM: iPhone/iPod touch PUBLISHER: Chillingo

Cogs combines sliding puzzles with mechanical nous to create a well executed and compelling game. You slide pieces around a 2D or 3D object to connect the gears and/or pipes and ring a bell, or inflate a balloon or drive a cart. For your \$1.19 you get 10 games to play in 'sandbox' mode, against the clock or in as few moves as possible. More tantalisingly locked games must be bought. **PRICE: \$1.19 (10 games)** – DB



CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS

Sony Pictures

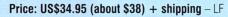
A budding scientist creates a machine that turns water into food. It starts raining pizza, burgers, ice cream — and meatballs — and a TV weathergirl is there to record the slide into chaos. It's one of the best animated movies made; everything about it is topclass, and the disc is a great one to take when shopping for a new TV. — DB



TALES OF MONKEY ISLAND

PLATFORM: Mac PUBLISHER: Telltale Games

This is a beautifully drawn graphic adventure — in which your character is a zombie-virus-spreading pirate — but it plays more like an interactive movie; the dialogue, challenges and storyline are all comedic and as important to your enjoyment as the gameplay itself. Released under licence from LucasArts, it provides 10 to 20 hours of fun.





BAGING THINDER 2

PLATFORM: iPhone/iPod touch PUBLISHER: Polarbit

Dumping realism for arcade-style fun, *Raging Thunder* 2 is an addictive and fun title that brings back the adrenaline-infused chaos of old-school racing games. Not only are the controls tight and the tracks scenic, the game features on-course "*Mario-Kart*"-esque upgrades like speed and armour boosters. The graphics aren't anything great, but it sure is fun. **Price: \$5.99** – SJ





ROB GRIFFITHS pulls together a swag of insider tricks to make your Mac life more interesting, productive and fun.

OPEN SAFARI LINKS IN NEW TABS

Some web links insist on opening new browser windows. Firefox lets you override this behaviour by specifying (in the Tabs preference pane) that you'd rather open such links in new tabs.

Unfortunately, Safari doesn't have such a preference setting. You could make Safari open these links in new tabs by \Re -clicking on them. But if you'd rather not have to hold down the \Re key all the time, you can force Safari to open those links in new tabs by editing a hidden preference setting.

To do so, quit Safari, open Terminal (/Applications/Utilities), and enter this command, followed by Return:

defaults write com.apple.Safari TargetedClicksCreateTabs -bool true

When you relaunch Safari, links that would normally open new windows should open in new foreground tabs instead. (To open tabs in the background, use the aforementioned \mathfrak{H}-click solution.)

To disable this hidden setting, quit Safari again, enter the following command in Terminal, and then press Return again:

defaults delete com.apple.Safari TargetedClicksCreateTabs

GET SAFARI'S DEBUG MENU BACK

The Debug menu seems to have vanished in Safari 4, but it's not actually gone; only the method for revealing it has changed.

First quit Safari and open Terminal (/Applications/Utilities). Then enter the following, followed by Return:

defaults write com.apple.Safari IncludeInternalDebugMenu 1

When you relaunch Safari, you'll see the Debug menu to the right of the Help menu. There's no help available for everything in this menu, though most options are relatively self-explanatory.

If you tire of having the Debug menu up there, quit Safari and then repeat the above command, but replace the 1 with a 0. Press Return when you're done, and the Debug menu will be gone.



First, go to Weather Underground (wunderground.com) in your browser. In the search box, enter the name of the city you want and then click Go – or navigate by choosing Australia, etc.

Once the results appear, Control-click on the ICAL icon near the top right of the page and select Copy Link (or Copy Link Location in Firefox) from the pop-up menu.

Switch to iCal and select Calendar > Subscribe. Press \(\mathfrak{H}\)-V to paste the link you just copied, and then click Subscribe. In the dialogue box that appears, edit the Name field and Description as you like. Click on the Auto-refresh pull-down menu and select the interval you want.

If you want these forecasts to appear on your iPhone too, connect your phone to your Mac, select your phone under Devices in iTunes' sidebar, and then click on the Info tab. In the Calendars section, select Sync iCal Calendars and then Selected Calendars. Click the checkbox next to the subscribed weather calendar to sync it to your phone.

CUSTOMISE TEXT SUBSTITUTIONS

Find yourself typing the same thing again and again? For example, your company name might be very long or you may need to use snippets of jargon repeatedly. Snow Leopard lets you create (nearly) systemwide text replacements, which means that you can type one thing and the OS will expand or format it in a particular way − for example, you type supercal, which expands to Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious Corporation™.

Open the Text tab of the Language & Text preference pane to see a number of predefined text replacements, including © for (c), ® for (r), and so on. This is also where you can add your own. Click the plus sign (+) and then enter text in the new, blank Replace and With fields.

You must enable text substitutions on a per-application basis. For most programs, you can do this by selecting Edit > Substitutions, and then selecting Text Replacements on the submenu.

Note that you will see this menu item only if the program supports substitutions. Also, in Apple Mail, this menu is greyed out when you're looking at the main Mail window. To enable substitutions, you must first open a new message window; you'll then find you can select the menu.

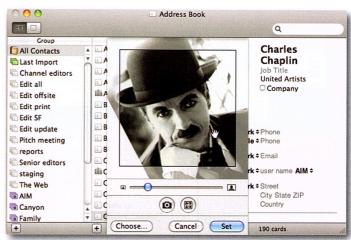
Once you've got substitutions working, you might wonder how you can enter multiline substitutions. That is, what if you want your signature to read:

Regards,

Richard

The easiest way to insert line breaks in your replacement text is to hold down the Option key and press Return whenever you need to create a line break. You won't be able to see both lines in the input area, but the formatting will come across when you type the abbreviation.

If you want to use longer snippets with more line breaks, compose them in a pure text editor such as Apple's TextEdit, then copy and paste the text into the With field in the Language & Text preference pane.



above. **Rotate image.** In the picture-choosing window (found in Address Book, iChat and other OS X applications), you can add an image for a contact—and rotate it so that it appears at different angles

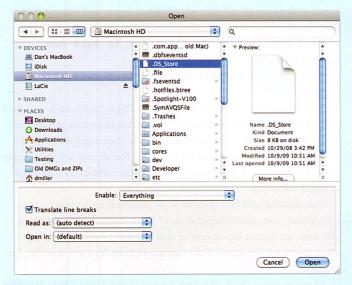
ROTATE YOUR USER IMAGE

In some of OS X's built-in applications, you can choose a photo as your personal icon. In Address Book, for example, you can select your entry, click Edit, and then double-click the picture box next to your name.

That will summon a window where you can take a picture with a connected camera, insert an image file, or paste an image from the Clipboard. That window has another feature that's less well known: You can also rotate the image.

To do so, hold down the Option key and then click and drag with your mouse or trackpad. As you do, the image will rotate; an overlaid clock face of sorts will appear, to help you align the image.

This trick should work in any program that uses the picture-choosing interface, such as iChat.



above. View hidden files. If you want to see files and folders that are normally hidden in the Finder, a simple Terminal command will let you.

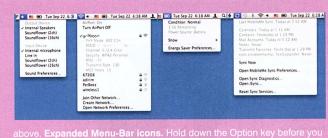
TEMPORARILY SEE HIDDEN FILES

By default, many of OS X's files and folders – especially Unix-only folders, such as '/usr,' '/etc,' and '/bin' – are hidden from view in the Finder. But you can change the default, so that you always see these hidden files and folders, by typing this command in Terminal (/Applications/Utilities):

defaults write com.apple.Finder AppleShowAllFiles YES

After you press Return and restart the Finder (hold down the Option key and then click and hold on the Finder icon in the Dock), you should be able to see every single file and folder on your Mac. (You can reverse the effect by changing the **YES** to **NO** and again restarting the Finder.) If you don't want to see the items all the time, Snow Leopard offers a new way to see them temporarily, but only in Open and Save dialogue boxes: In one of those dialogue boxes press \$\mathscr{H}\$-Shift-Full Stop (.). This command is a toggle; to hide the hidden files again, press \$\mathscr{H}\$-Shift-Full Stop again.

MACWORLD Feature



above. **Expanded Menu-Bar icons**. Hold down the Option key before you select a menu-bar icon, to reveal more information. This composite image shows several icons' hidden menu items.

REVEAL HIDDEN MENU-BAR POWER

In Mac OS X 10.5, the AirPort icon in the menu bar had a trick up its sleeve: if you held down Option when clicking the icon, you'd see more information about the various available AirPort networks. In Snow Leopard, this feature has been expanded – and not just for the AirPort menu, but for some others as well:

AirPort. In addition to seeing the hardware (MAC) address of the wireless station, which channel is in use, the network's signal strength (RSSI), and the data transmission rate (all of which is visible in OS X 10.5), you can also see the mode your connected network is using (802.11n, for instance), the type of security (WPA2 Personal, say), and something called the MCS Index, which appears to be related to the 802.11n standard

Sound. If you use more than one sound input and/or output on your Mac, Option-click the Sound icon to see a list of available input and output devices. Select one from the list to use that device.

Battery. On laptops, when you Option-click the Battery icon, you'll see one of the following options next to the word Condition: Normal, Replace Soon, Replace Now or Service Battery. Click this entry, and an Apple Help page will open, explaining what each term means.

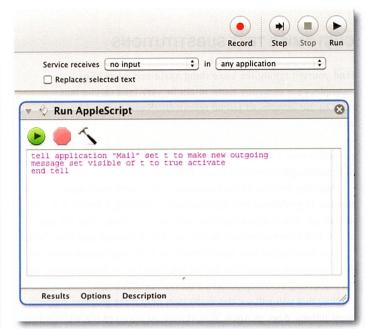
Sync. Option-click this icon, and you'll see detailed information about exactly when each of the data types you sync was last synchronised

IDENTIFY PROCESSES USING THE NET

Want to know which programs are using your internet connection? open terminal (/Applications/utilities), and run this command:

lsof -P -i -n | cut -f 1 -d " " | uniq
When you press return, you'll see a list of processes that are
connecting to the net.

The list should be easy to decipher; if there's anything you can't figure out, a trip to Google should help. Note that the list won't show you all the apps that use your net connection over time. For that, you'd need something like Little Snitch (www.obdev.at/products/littlesnitch).



above. **New email service.** Using Automator you can create an AppleScript action that allows you to create an email message while in any program.

CREATE A MAIL MESSAGE IN ANY APP

While OS X provides services that will let you send email based on a selected file or email address, there's no global "I'd like to create a new email message" service. But with a bit of work and a little help from AppleScript, you can create your own command to do just that.

The first step is to create the AppleScript. Launch Automator and select Service from the template chooser. When Automator opens, set the pop-up menus at the top of the work area to No Input and Any Application. Then find the Run AppleScript action and drag it into the blank work area on the right side of the Automator window. Remove all the code that appears there, and replace it with the following:

tell application "Mail" set t to make new outgoing

message set visible of ${\bf t}$ to true activate end ${\bf t}$ ell

Save your service with a relevant name ('New email', say), and then open the Keyboard Shortcuts tab of the Keyboard system preference. Select Services in the column on the left and then scroll down to the General section in the column on the right. You should see your newly created service listed there; double-click to the right of its name and assign it a shortcut.

This shortcut will be available in all applications, so make sure it's unique – use some combination of Shift, Control, \mathbb{H} , and Option plus your activation key to ensure that it doesn't conflict with any other shortcuts. I assigned Shift-Control-Option-N as my shortcut, for example.

(If you're using OS X 10.5, you'll want to use Script Editor to create the script and then use a program like Spark (www.shadowlab.org) to assign a keyboard shortcut to it.)

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REPROGRAM ITUNES' GREEN BUTTON

Before iTunes 9, clicking the green button in the upper left corner of the iTunes window turned the window into a miniplayer. In iTunes 9, that button changed into a true 'maximise' button; to get the miniplayer, you had to Optionclick the green button.

In iTunes 9.0.1, things are back as they were – clicking the green button switches to the miniplayer and Option-clicking it maximises the window. If you prefer the green-button functionality of iTunes 9, you can revert to that behaviour.

Quit iTunes and enter this command in Terminal:

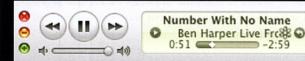
defaults write com.apple.iTunes zoom-to-window -bool YES

Restart iTunes. Now clicking the green button should maximise the window. To reverse the change, quit out of iTunes and enter this command in Terminal:

defaults delete com.apple. iTunes zoom-towindow

Launch iTunes. Now the green button will show the miniplayer when clicked.

below. Going green. Clicking the green button on an iTunes window will turn it into a miniplayer – but you can change it to a true 'maximise' button.



PAUSE ZOOMS IN IMOVIE

By default, when you apply the popular Ken Burns panning-and-zooming effect to an image in iMovie, the effect begins as soon as the image is displayed and then ends (after a specified time interval) when it vanishes.

But what if you'd rather have the image appear for a specific period of time before the Ken Burns effect kicks in and then have it linger on screen for a period of time after the effect is done?

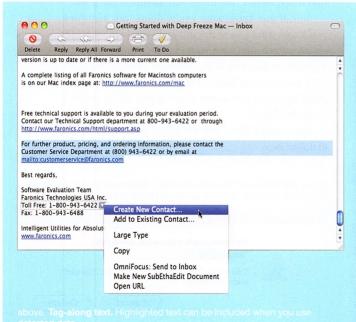
In iMovie HD it was actually quite easy to make this pause-move-pause effect happen. In iMovie '09 there is a way to achieve it, too – but it takes a little doing.

To start, add the still image you want to modify to your project. Next, set up the Ken Burns effect as you wish. Then, duplicate that same still image twice (select Edit > Copy, then Edit > Paste twice), making a total of three copies.

In the first image in the series (which will be the 'before' still), edit the Ken Burns effect so that the End effect's size and position are the same as those in the Start effect.

In the last image in the series (the 'after' image), click the small two-headed circular arrow to flip the Start and End effects, and then set the End effect's size and location to be equal to those of the Start effect

Finally, if you like, you can change the duration of the before and/or after images to suit your movie's needs.



ANNOTATE DETECTED DATA

Since their introduction in Mac OS X 10.5, data detectors have made it easier to add contacts to Address Book and events to iCal from within Mail

The technology detects addresses, phone numbers, and dates and times in messages. When you hover your cursor over that detected data, a drop-down menu appears that allows you to quickly convert those addresses, dates, and times into new contacts in Address Book or new events in iCal.

While you probably know about and use data detectors already, you might not know you can include additional text from the email in your new event or contact.

Just select the other text first, and then use the data detector menu on the desired address, phone number, or date When the new event or contact is created, the additional text you selected will automatically be added to the Notes field in ICAL and Address Book



above. Transparent Terminal. To see what's behind a Terminal window, click and hold on a tab and then drag it downward; doing so will make the window temporarily translucent.

THE SEE-THROUGH TERMINAL

If you spend a lot of time in Terminal, you may sometimes want to see what's behind the Terminal window. You can move it out of the way, minimise it, resize it, or use Exposé. Or you can make the window temporarily translucent.

To do so, you must be running OS X 10.5 (or later), have Terminal's tab bar visible (View > Show Tab Bar), and be using only one tab. Click and hold on the tab, and then pull it down. Doing so turns the window nearly transparent. (If you had multiple tabs open, clicking and holding on a tab would turn that tab into its own window.)

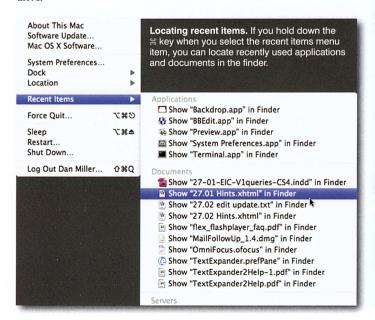
The window will remain transparent for as long as you hold down the mouse button. Once you've finished viewing whatever it is you wanted to see, release the mouse button.

FIND YOUR RECENT ITEMS

As the name implies, OS X's Recent Items menu item (Apple menu > Recent Items) shows you the applications, documents, and servers you've used most recently. In OS X 10.5, that was all it could do. But in Snow Leopard, Recent Items can also help you locate recently used apps and documents in the Finder.

To try it, press the \mathfrak{H} key when the Recent Items list is open. The descriptions of applications and documents will change: Instead of showing, say, 'Safari', the menu will now display 'Show "Safari" In Finder'. If you then select that entry, the folder containing Safari (most likely Applications) will open in the Finder. Ditto for documents. (Nothing happens to entries for recently used servers.)

While this isn't terribly useful for applications, it can be a timesaver when you're trying to locate a recently used document on your hard



SKIP NETWORK DELETION WARNING

This hint is simple, effective – and potentially dangerous. It's a timesaving shortcut that you could regret using. So you must be careful with it.

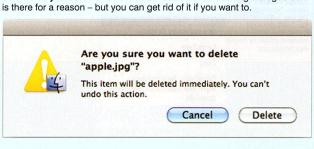
If you use files from networked machines on your Mac, you're probably familiar with the warning that appears whenever you try to delete one of them - the one that says the item will be deleted immediately and that you'll be unable to undo that deletion.

That warning is important, because remotely mounted files aren't put in your Mac's Trash, from which you can retrieve them later. Instead, if you click the Delete button in that dialogue box, the file(s) will disappear for good.

Still, if you know what you're doing (not just think you know what you're doing!) and you work with files on a network a lot, that warning can get old quickly so much so that you might ignore it anyway and just click Delete out of habit. If that warning has outlived its usefulness, you can delete a networked file by pressing \#-Option-Delete.

The selected file(s) will disappear without the warning dialogue box.

below. Are you sure? The networked files deletion warning dialogue box





above. **Download warning.** Tired of seeing this warning when you open a downloaded file? There is an easy way to make it go away.

MANAGE DOWNLOAD WARNINGS

As you've probably noticed, OS X (10.5 and later) warns you the first time you try to open a downloaded file; a dialogue box appears, asking you whether you're sure you want to do so. in theory, the warning is a good idea. in practice, it can be a pain.

You can prevent the warning dialogue box from appearing when you try to open files in the downloads folder. Open Terminal (/Applications/Utilities), then, in OS X 10.5, type the following:

find \sim /Downloads -type f -exec xattr -d com. apple.quarantine {} \;

In 10.6, type:

xattr -d -r com.apple.quarantine \sim /Downloads

You can specify a different directory by changing ~/**Downloads** to the path of whatever folder you want to update. (Use backslashes before any spaces in that path.)

By the way, another, easier way of opening Terminal (or any other application) is to search for it using Spotlight – the magnifying glass icon to the top right of your Mac screen.

ENABLE GLOBAL TEXT REPLACEMENTS

On Page 33 we spoke about text substitution – which lets OS X Snow Leopard automatically replace one set of characters with another set of characters or symbols, but one of the drawbacks is that these substitutions are not enabled globally by default; they must be enabled in each application that supports them. To do so, select Edit > Substitutions > Text Replacement.

But if you'd rather enable substitutions in all your apps at once, open Terminal and enter the following command:

defaults write -g WebAutomaticTextReplacementEnabled -bool true

This change will take place only in programs that support text replacement, and in which you haven't disabled it.

Be careful with this, though: These shortcuts can have unintended consequences. For example, if you're writing code and want to refer to a variable c, it might look something like this: mystring = uppercase(c). If text substitution is enabled in your text editor, that (c) would turn into ©, which is not what you want.

If you want to turn off this option, enter this command in Terminal:

defaults delete -g

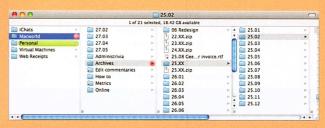
WebAutomaticTextReplacementEnabled

NAVIGATE COLUMN VIEW IN THE FINDER

In OS X 10.5, you could navigate up and down a folder hierarchy in the Finder's Column view using the arrow keys: Left to move one level up, Right to move one level down. This worked fine, with one drawback: If you used the arrow keys to move up in the folder hierarchy, the contents of the lower folders disappeared from the Finder window. And to return to the original folder, you had to retype the combination of arrow keys and/or letters that got you there in the first place.

In OS X 10.6, you can still use the arrow keys to navigate up and down a folder hierarchy. But you can also navigate Column view with two new key choices: Tab and Shift-Tab. These keys appear to work just like the left and right arrow keys do, but with one important difference: When you use Shift-Tab to back out of a folder, that folder's contents stay visible in the Finder; parent folders are marked with a gray background. (In List and Icon views, Tab and Shift-Tab scroll through files alphabetically.)

You can also combine the old and new keys to navigate quickly through your folders. After using Shift-Tab to navigate back up a folder hierarchy, you can drill back down to your starting point by repeatedly pressing Tab. But you can also press Right Arrow once; you'll jump all the way back down to the original folder.



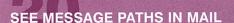
above. **Key to navigation.** Using Tab and Shift-Tab is an easy way to skim through Finder's Column view..

SEE ONE APP'S WINDOWS IN SEVERAL SPACES

If you have windows from one app in more than one Spaces workspace, you can switch among them in several ways. You can switch to the other workspace (press F8, press Control and one of the arrow keys, or press Control and the number key corresponding to a workspace). Or you can select one of the open windows from the app's contextual menu in the Dock. But OS X 10.6 adds two more options.

First, you can click and hold on the application's Dock icon and use Dock Exposé to select the window you want. Or you can click the application's Dock icon and click your way through the windows.

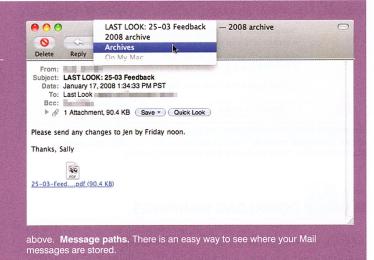
If the app whose windows you want to see is at the front, every time you click you'll move to the next workspace containing one of that app's windows. If the app is in the background, the first click will bring any windows in the current workspace to the foreground, and subsequent clicks will cycle through open windows in other workspaces.

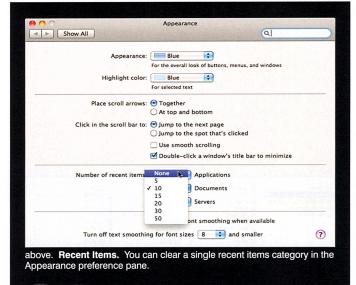


Do a search in Mail and you'll get a list of messages that meet your search criteria. If you want to find out where one of those messages is stored, you can select it and then click the Show In Mailbox link in the upper left corner. This will take you to its corresponding mailbox folder. But it will also clear your results.

To view the message in its original folder without losing your search results, open the message and ℜ-click (or Control-click or right-click) the envelope icon at the top of the message window.

That will produce a menu showing the path to the message's folder. Select a folder, and Mail will open it in a new window; your search results will still be in the original window.





EDIT RECENT ITEMS MENU

The Apple menu's Recent Items entry lists recently used programs, documents and servers, making it easy to reopen or reconnect to them.

You can delete all of these items by clicking Clear Menu (at the bottom of the list). And you can remove entries one at a time by editing the com.apple.recentitems.plist file. But there's another way to clear some (though not all) of the items on the list.

The Recent Items list is sorted into three categories: Applications, Documents, and Servers. To clear all the entries in any one of those groups, open the Appearance pane in System Preferences. Set the Number Of Recent Items pop-up menu to None for whichever category you want to clear, then immediately set it back to your preferred count.

When you open Recent Items again, the category you zeroed out will be blank, while the other two will still show recent activity.

ANIMATE QUICK LOOK FOLDER ICONS

Normally, using Quick Look on a folder is boring: you see a big blue folder icon, the size and number of items in the folder, and the time it was last modified. But you can make that folder icon livelier by adding animated icons for each file within the folder.

To enable this feature, open Terminal, type the following com- mand, and then press Return:

defaults write com.apple.finder QLEnableXRayFolders 1

Next, relaunch the Finder. One way to do this is to hold down the Option key and then click and hold on the Finder's Dock icon. When the contextual menu appears, select Relaunch.

Now select a folder in the Finder and press the spacebar, and revel in your moving-icon previews. If you ever tire of this eye candy, open Terminal again, type the following command, and press Return:

defaults delete com.apple.finder QLEnableXRayFolders

Relaunch the Finder again, and Quick Look will revert to its boring old treatment of folders.

KEEP CURSOR WITH CURRENT SCREEN

In many OS X applications, you can move around within a document one screenful at a time by pressing Page Up or Page Down. Unfortunately, the cursor doesn't come along; it stays wherever it was when you started paging up or down.

For example, if you position the cursor in the first line of a TextEdit file, press Page Down, and then start typing, the window will jump back to the first line, and your input will appear there.

To make the cursor follow along when you press Page Up or Page Down, press and hold Option as you press the other key. The cursor will move to the middle of the current screen; if you start typing, the output will appear on that line. This doesn't work in every app, but it's worth experimenting to find out where it does.

What's on your to-do list?

- ☑ Collect graphics for Macworld print ad
- ✓ Write text
- ☐ Design nice layout

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EDUCATION

MARTIN LEVINS



Now you see it ...

ne of the attractions of Photoshop as an application has been its ability not only to separate a photographic image into Red, Green and Blue channels, but also to create more channels in the same image.

A special 'alpha' channel has long been used by photo editors to turn part of an image transparent, allowing all sorts of manipulation opportunities: portraits can be placed partially over text, or photos can be composited together to create a new reality

Of course, Photoshop – or even its plainer cousin, Photoshop Elements – is not necessarily within easy reach of schools' budgets, but we can achieve the same, high production value effects by other means.

Since iWork '08, both Keynote and Pages have had an 'Instant Alpha' entry in their Format menus (in fact, even iWeb and Preview have this), but I'm surprised that the power of this feature is not well known.

Most photos with relatively uncluttered backgrounds will suit the Instant Alpha treatment – clickdrag to separate the background from the subject and add in another background to enable such wonders as students on Mars or skateboarders surfing waves. You can also use this technique to isolate parts of images to make them suitable for logos, letterheads or perhaps animation.

A favourite use is to have students build their own front cover of a magazine that portrays their interests or skills (either aspirational or real – I've discovered a lot about my students this way).

Pages and iWeb are fine for static images, but we can go further – and this is where it gets really interesting



Curiously, she uses Preview to convert some vector artwork (a rectangle created in Keynote) to bitmapped because Instant Alpha only works on bitmapped. I think this could be accomplished more easily by exporting the slide from Keynote to a TIFF image, then re-inserting the TIFF image back into the presentation.

This can be an interesting and engaging exercise for kids as well.
Use Keynote to produce a newscast setup with a breaking news crawl, or the introductory titles for a TV episode.

This approach means that terms such as vector and bitmap, filetype and resolution come alive.

The Mac-style 'Instant Alpha' will allow additive repetition whereby more than one colour can be made transparent, and, in the case of Keynote, you can use the images to prepare near-broadcast quality movies."

 because Keynote can take this functionality to a new level.

OK, you say, but PowerPoint has 'make this colour transparent' so what's the difference?

It's this: the Mac-style 'Instant Alpha' will allow additive repetition whereby more than one colour can be made transparent, and, in the case of Keynote, you can use the images to prepare near-broadcast quality movies.

Case in point: Tricia Fuglestad, an art teacher at Dryden Elementary school in the US state of Illinois, showcasing careers in art. She decides on a 60 Minutes-style presentation. You can check out the finished product (Hotlinks 1) and watch her creating the project as well (Hotlinks 2).

Like any task, you will need some scaffolding, so, to make the most of any Keynote slides for Video, use1920 x 1080 as your slide size for HD, (use 1280 x 720 for lower resolution).

When you've finished with Keynote, you can export as QuickTime, with the export timed at 25 frames per second, allowing easier combination with other video so that, say, a green-screen shot can be combined seamlessly in iMovie.

Experiment with all the effects that Keynote offers – it's still available inexpensively as a site licence (500 seats) for schools. Grab it now before Apple changes its mind on pricing. The site licence deal we enjoy in Australia has recently been pulled from the US education offering.

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RRP: US\$39.95 (about \$44) + shipping Just Mobile www.xtand.net

→ Fabrix Magic Sleeve for iPad. This is a snug-fitting, lightweight iPad sleeve lined with soft cushioned padding for protection against scratches and light bumps. Fabrix says its 'pillow flap' design prevents the iPad from accidentally slipping out of the sleeve. It's available in a variety of designs, including 'Love Bouquet' (pictured). Buy them online from the address

RRP: US\$32.90 (about \$36) + shipping Fabrix

www.fabrixcases.com/v2/shop/ipad/

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→ PlayStation Move motion controller. Sony

has obviously looked at Nintendo's Wii games console and liked what it saw - it's announced the launch of a motion controller and sub-controller very similar to Nintendo's Wii Remote and Nunchuck. Coming in spring, the PS3-compatible controllers will allow users to play games by waving their arms around. On board are a three-axis gyroscope, a three-axis accelerometer and a terrestrial magnetic field sensor.

RRP: TBA Sony Computer Entertainment au.playstation.com



Denon S-5BD Blu-ray receiver. To get

the best out of Blu-ray audio and video you need both a decent Blu-ray player and an audiophilequality receiver. Denon says it's made things easier by combining both in the S-5BD Blu-ray receiver. Among its many features, the 5.1-channel S-5BD has iPod connectivity via a USB port - or Denon's Networked Control Dock – automatic calibration and support for the latest surround sound formats.

RRP: \$3499 **Audio Products Group** www.audioproducts.com.au



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Products MACWORLD

■ Brando iPhone 3GS Wooden Case.

There are scads of cases on the market that will make your iPhone look funky, chic, geeky and the rest — but very few will bring a bit of nature into your hi-tech world. The Wooden Case from Hong Kong's Brando isn't exactly 'wooden', but it looks like the real thing and is made from environmentally friendly plastic.

RRP: \$25 (about \$28) + shipping Brando

shop.brando.com

iFrogz EarPollution CS40 headphones.

The EarPollution range from iFrogz is extensive, to say the least, and has just been extended even further with the CS40 'comfort series'. iFrogz says the comfort comes from lightweight materials and 'ultra cushioned' earcups. They come in five colours: blue, black, red, pink and white, and are available from Harvey Norman stores.

RRP: \$59.95 Adeal

www.adeal.com.au



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telephone. It's very seldom that B&O updates
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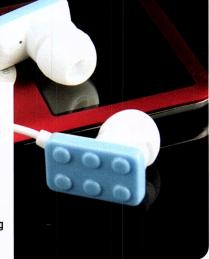
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www.crumpler.com.au

→ Brick Earphones. Gadget4all is a great Hong Kong-based website that offers weird items like desktop vacuum cleaners, dog snack launchers and solar cockroaches. But it also offers useful gadgets such as a roll-up USB piano mat and these Brick Earphones. They're earphones, have a Lego-like brick earpiece and come in black, blue, green, pink and red.

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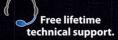




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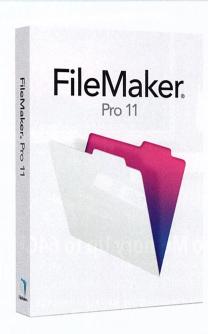
SOFTWARE
KEITH WHITE

First look at FileMaker Pro 11

he first thing you notice about the new FileMaker Pro 11 relational database software is the redesigned start-up screen which gives you four options to get started. Create a new database from scratch; convert an existing Excel, Bento, tab delimited or comma separated file; or use one of the 30 templates.

The latter cover a wide range of uses: asset and contact management; libraries for documents movies and music; product and photo catalogues; inventory and personnel records.

Or if you want to open an existing FileMaker database your document library is waiting onscreen. There are also links to instructional videos.



FileMaker Pro 11 is extremely userfriendly for such a powerful tool."

hands-on tutorials, other resources and the FileMaker Forum.

Of course, if you're an old FMP hand you can uncheck this window and get started in your own fashion. But for users with less experience this is a great way to start. And it underlines the thrust of the main improvements in FileMaker 11 – improved ease of use, especially for beginners, and having more operations easily accessible without needing to work through the traditional Manage Database dialogue box.

Some of the new features are: **Quick Find.** Rather than having to specify search fields, you can now interrogate the entire database and save the results of your search. It's a useful feature, especially when using large databases.

Layout Folders. As your FileMaker collection grows you may want to

organise a large number of layouts and this feature helps you do just that. **Inspector.** A floating palette where you can modify every aspect of your database layout. The Position tab allows you to micro-tune the physical layout of your fields. The Appearance tab gives you control of text styles, stroke and fill attributes, text alignment, tabs and indents. The Data tab allows you to specify the source for field data and to control its appearance. A nice feature is the ability to have more than one inspector open at a time.

Quick Reports. A neat way of modifying your database while still in Browse mode. Click the 'Table View' icon and + signs appear at the end of your last column and row. Click on the column + for a new field; click on the row + for a new record. You can make changes to the format and

appearance of your data at the viewing level without needing to drill down to the Manage Database functions.

Improved Layout/Report Assistant.

This tool helps you organise your data for presentation quickly and easily. Using a simple dialogue box and elegant templates you can create stunning reports in a flash.

Charts. Improved appearance and more customisation. Pie, bar and area charts can be set up on the fly and dynamically linked to the data they represent. An excellent attribute for quickly demonstrating changes over time. Hover your mouse over a chart item to get a pop-up value.

Portal Filtering. This allows you to set filters to create a custom display of records from related databases.

Snapshot Link. A little like Time Machine, this allows you to preserve a found set of records from a search as it was at the time of the search. These records can then be sent to anyone else using FileMaker 11.

Recurring Import. This feature lets you link your FileMaker database dynamically to an Excel spreadsheet.

Impressed? Other advantages worth considering are the fact that FileMaker is cross-platform, it has been around since 1985 with an extensive user base, and it is extremely user-friendly for such a powerful tool.

If you've been using FileMaker's little brother, Bento, to manage your personal data, FileMaker Pro 11 now offers you similar ease of use but vastly more power for business-level data control.

An Advanced version offers even more tools for database pros. There are also two server versions. See www.filemaker.com.au for information on system requirements and pricing.



On the road again

One bourbon, one scotch, one beer and a heap of really cool tech. KEITH WHITE straps on the Strat for the first time in 10 years

> ast Australia Day I played my first live gig in 10 years. It went pretty well considering I had to acquaint myself with a whole stack of new gear, some technology I'd never used before and a voice and fingers that needed some weeks of serious rehearsal to get up to scratch.

Ten years is a long time, particularly in music technology, so I'd like to share my reflections as a 'then and now'.

After playing in cover bands since leaving high school I went solo in the early 1980s. Vocals, guitar and supplementary noise. In the beginning this was one of the newly emerging drum machines, in this case a Korg which had a variety of different beats I could select from a multibutton panel.

A dual foot switch toggled the thing on and off and allowed me to insert a fill pattern whenever necessary. This machine soon gave way to a Korg PSS-50 which now added a bassline. and basic keyboard fills to the drum sounds.

Again it was a matter of selecting from a range of popular styles but then programming chords into a sequence. This was then saved onto a cassette tape recorder and loaded back in when necessary. Very flaky. Some of the patterns sounded quite good but most were cheesy and overtly mechanical.

The big breakthrough was MIDI, firstly on a Roland MC 500 and then a Roland MT 120. It gave me 128 instruments and total

Programming the MC 500 was painstaking, especially with the tiny display window. But after a while all the routines became second nature and I was getting some reasonable sounding backing tracks. And saving to floppy disk was far more reliable than cassette.

My Mac was only used to download MIDI files from the internet to run on the MT 120.

I used an Ibanez Analog Delay machine to fill out my vocals and a Korg PME 40X effects board, for my had plugged flanger, analogue delay, overdrive and compressor modules,

each the size of a cigarette pack. Power came from a Yamaha EM 1620 powered mixer into a pair of EV speaker cabinets, with an Abbey 15in subsystem taking care of the bottom end. A professional-quality AKG microphone completed the ria.

Fast forward to 2010 and it's a different world. Power is now provided by a Yamaha Stagepas 500 powered system. Half the weight and twice the power of my original rig and with crystal-clear treble and nicely rounded bass. The amplifier and cables all pack away neatly into the rear of the speaker cabinets.

The rumble is now provided by a DE 400W 12in sub bass system, much lighter but with even more punch than my original Abbey setup.

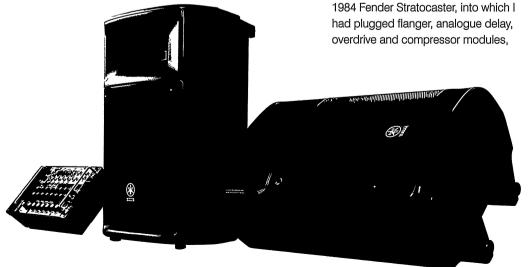
The AKG microphone still sounded okay but it was nearly 30 years old and I figured there might be something better around. As a big fan of the RØDE Podcaster I explained my situation to the folks at RØDE and they sent me one of their new M1 microphones in a funky tin can.

Compact, rugged and customdesigned for live vocals the M1 ticks off all my boxes. I like a mic you can get up close and personal with and its smoky black styling is very cool.

To replace the moribund Ibanez delay I searched the internet for options. That's something I couldn't have done as easily in 2000! The device most suited to my needs seemed to be the VoiceTone Harmony G vocal harmony effects pedal from Canadian company TC

Its Australian distributor, Amber Technology, sent me out a 120mm





x 120mm black module with a bewildering array of switches, knobs and LEDs.

The setup requires microphone and guitar to be connected to the unit before routing to the amplifier. It works basically by analysing the chord structure of the guitar you're playing in combination with the notes you're singing and provides you with a choice of harmonising options.

These range from a simple doubling of your voice to creating harmonies a third or a fifth above your vocal, or a third or a sixth below. You can also add a voice an octave above or an octave below. Presets provide a useful range of common options, and you can set and store your own combinations. But that's not all.

The Harmony G also includes a wide selection of reverb and echo effects. These are included in the presets but again can be customised

As I write this the Harmony G has just become the Harmony GXT with some exciting new features which I'll review later in the year.

For my backings I'm still using MIDI but this is where the greatest changes have taken place. Thanks mainly to the realistic instrument sounds of GarageBand and its Jam Pack extensions I can now take my old MIDI files and give them a new lease of life.

I import the MIDI files into GB where each instrument appears as a separate track. I then have total control over every note played. Don't like the slap bass sound? Replace it with a nice mellow acoustic bass. Drums sound a bit anaemic? Boost the volume and add some compression. Strings too noisy and shrill? Lower them an octave and add a little bottom end. When I'm finished I export from GB as high-quality AAC files to play via QuickTime on my G4 iBook.

four- or five-piece backing. I then arrange this into a complete song with key and tempo changes, stops and fills.

I have the option of exporting this as an audio file or as a MIDI file for further processing in GarageBand.

In addition to MIDI sounds
Band-in-a-Box now has Real
Tracks played by real musicians.
These are manipulable in pitch
and tempo (to a certain extent),
similar to the audio loops in
GarageBand. I have a couple of
nice country numbers in my
repertoire now with real guitar,
bass, drums and sweet pedal
steel fills. And many more
possibilities beckon.

The Korg PME 40X still earns its keep giving my Strat warm analogue sounds but I'll be looking at a Boss ME 25 setup when they become available.

It's all been a lot of fun. 🕮

Thanks mainly to the realistic instrument sounds of GarageBand and its Jam Pack extensions I can now take my old MIDI files and give them a new lease of life."

to suit. There's also a Tone button which automatically smooths and brightens your vocal sound. It takes a little while to get used to the complexity of the device but then it becomes pretty intuitive. I've been very happy with the simple close harmony setting I use on John Lennon's Imagine and the wider range of harmonies on the Bee Gee's Massachusetts.

Harmony G is pretty addictive and it took me a while before I developed the restraint to kill it in the verse and only use it in the chorus.

When you kick the harmonies in it certainly turns heads.

If there's a song I can't find a suitable MIDI backing for I turn to my old favourite Band-in-a-Box. I simply choose a style from a comprehensive range, key in the chord pattern and the program generates a three-,

above. Very cool. The RØDE M1 microphone is a mic you can get up close and personal with.

www.macworld.com.au

Fat and fabulous

Updated iTube brings valve sound to iPods.

'm a sucker for valves. They look great, sitting there and glowing magnanimously while they amplify your music just as they've done for the past century.

More importantly, they sound great as well, producing a warmer, sweeter, more musical sound than most modern electronics.

If you're one of those who doesn't believe that the sound can be so different, grab a couple of your favourite CDs (or LPs) and head down to your local hi-fi shop. These guys will be more than willing to show you the difference ... after all, a convert to the world of decent audio is just as important as a convert to Mac!

A wonderful entree to the world of the valve (or vacuum tube) is this lovely looking Fatman iTube from TLAudio. TLAudio is a leader in the world of tube mixing consoles, and the company's expertise really shows.

The iTube consists of a separate amp and iPhone/iPod dock, both made of metal and plastic with a pleasingly modern-yet-retro design.

The amp is a hybrid solid-state/valve design, with the pre-stage driven by two 6N1s and a 6E2. The 6E2 is a very cool 'magic eye' valve featuring two phosphor strips that elongate according to the signal strength. They sit under a protective black metal cage which can be removed.

A remote control is provided which controls the dock but not – as is often the case with valves – the amp. The latter has an On/Off switch, a two-way input selector and a volume knob.

The iTube has been around for a few years but now boasts a few improvements, including iPhone compatibility. The model I tested didn't have USB iTunes syncing available, but a soon-to-appear new model will.

I gave the amp/dock/speakers combo a run with all genres of music



Fatman iTube

Maxmedia, www.maxmedia.com.au

Pros Great looks; valve warmth in sound; well made; can output video

Cons A little laid-back for pop music

RRP \$599; \$849 with speakers



over a few weeks, and it proved to be more than able at its price point: clear, musical and gentle, with the valves' warmth clearly noticeable.

It shone particularly well running laid-back jazz a la Herb Ellis and Ray Brown's *Soft Shoe* or blues such as J.J. Cale and Eric Clapton's *The Road to Escondido*.

Classical and opera (particularly the Irish tenor Placid O'Domingo) showed remarkable depth for an amp of this size and price. When playing Albinoni's Adagio in G Minor while doing this review, I found myself getting lost in the music instead of writing – a testament to the sound.

If I was to find one fault in the sound, though, I would say that when it

I found myself getting lost in the music instead of writing – a testament to the sound."

comes to pop music – and particularly female singers such as Beyonce – the Fatman's laid-back presentation might not sound sharp enough.

Besides the rich sound, another big advantage the unit has over other iPod docking speaker systems is that the detached speakers can be placed further apart for better audio imaging.

While the bundled speakers are good value, the iTube (13Wx2; 8 ohms; 20Hz-20kHz) can also drive larger and better speakers. So you could just buy the amp/dock combo and match your own speakers.

Australian Macworld's buying

advice. Part of a larger valve-meets-iPod range, the iTube is a stunner at its price point of \$849 with speakers and \$599 without (prices for the new model may differ). We've had a run of five-mouse reviews recently, and this is another to add to the list. It just goes to show what great audio – and bang for your buck – you can get these days.

- DAVE BULLARD

The New Kid on the Block

Let Case-Mate give your iPad the protection it deserves.



Distributed in Australia by Webequip.com.au

Just got your iPad and in search of the grooviest design around? It's time to Gelli-fy your iPad!

The **Gelli** cover adds a splash of translucent color and gives your iPad case a funky design to set it apart from the rest. The Gelli acts as a skin - keeping your iPad safe with a fully protective, cutting-edge flexible thermoplastic material.









Maybe it's time for some Tough protection!

Cars, computers, handhelds—it seems like everyone is going hybrid. What's the hook? To be hybrid is to take the best of both worlds, the strengths of two technologies combined for one powerful, game-changing solution.

The **Hybrid Tough** cases for the Apple iPad use the protective power of dual layers. A form-fitting silicone skin covers your iPad completely, absorbing each impact or hard knock making the Tough iPad case the most durable on the market. Wrapped around the skin is a hard, ABS plastic shell for complete security, adding another level of protection— and making for a firm grip.



The Traveler iPad Felt Folio Leather Case

For the iPad user on the go, the **Traveler** offers the best of both worlds – convenience and durability. The Traveler iPad case is a felt folio that folds out to include storage pockets for pens, business cards, whatever you may need on the go. The premium leather accents highlight the quality and utility of this iPad cover while keeping your iPad safe and secure with magnetic closures.

Features side-opening felt with leather accents, pockets for light storage and a magnetic strap to secure the iPad while in transit

The Walkabout - iPad Leather Folio

The **Walkabout** for the iPad. Sound good? Sure, but how about adding "rich, premium, smooth, durable and leather" to that statement? Sound better? It does to us.

Keep your iPad safe without losing any style points! The Walkabout is a top-opening iPad case constructed of genuine tan leather. The top enclosure is secured by two magnets for easy access to open the folio, as needed, but strong enough to keep your iPad secured in the Walkabout cover at all times.

Features premium genuine tan leather, designed for the user that wants convenience with style and has embedded magnets in the top flap to secure the iPad while in transit.





The Express iPad Nylon Flip Case

The Apple iPad is sleek and sexy, so your iPad case should be too. Created out of a black ballistic nylon, the **Express** is a splash-resistant; the perfect basic for a minimalistic mindset – simply slide your iPad into this case and you're good to go!

Express iPad cases feature a side opening magnetic enclosure to keep your iPad safe and secure in transit.

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Amazing Image Capture tricks

DERRICK STORY gives six surprising uses for Snow Leopard's built-in photo app.

mage Capture is one of OS X's best-kept secrets. This photosavvy program does a great job of grabbing a quick shot and performing complex actions without having to first add the image to iPhoto's library. And in Snow Leopard, Apple has made it even more useful.

Once you fire up the application, you can connect anything from an iPhone to a Canon 5D Mark II, browse images on the memory card, and then download only the ones you want. You can even have multiple devices connected at once and choose among them.

If you haven't taken a look at Image Capture lately, here is some of what you're missing out on:

Keep iPhoto in its place
If you've been plagued by iPhoto

launching every time you plug in your camera or iPhone, you can quickly fix the problem in Image Capture.

Launch Image Capture, connect your device, and make sure it's highlighted in the left column. Now choose the photo software you want to use from the pop-up menu at the bottom of the column.

Image Capture lists all of the available photo programs; selecting one will set it as the default application for the camera. Even better, you can also choose to have nothing happen when the camera or iPhone is plugged in.



left. Multiple default applications. In the latest version of Image Capture you can set a different default application for each camera, iPhone or other compatible device.

What's even cooler is that you can set different actions for different devices. If you want iPhoto to launch when you connect your compact camera, for example, but don't want anything to pop up when you plug in your iPhone, Image Capture will take care of it.

2 Grab a quick shot
Have you ever come home from

an event and wanted to quickly email one or two photos from the day?

Even if you use iPhoto, you may not want to go through the whole process of launching the app and importing hundreds of photos you took, just to export one shot.

Instead, launch Image Capture.
You'll see thumbnails of all the

images on your card. Select the shot you want, use the 'Import To' menu to specify where you want it saved, and then click the Import button. You'll get the full-resolution photo – along with any metadata and GPS coordinates – in the destination you chose.

Image Capture is one of the easiest ways to grab full-resolution photos off your iPhone. It can also download your iPhone videos, which appear alongside the still photos in Image Capture.

Want to simply email the photo without downloading it? Just select the photo, choose Mail from the 'Import To' pop-up menu, and then click the Import button. You'll get an email message ready to send with the photo attached.

right.
Separate image
files. If you place
multiple images
on a scanner bed,
lmage Capture will
detect each image
and save them as
separate files.

Sort your pictures
Having trouble finding the shot
you want? Image Capture lets you
change how you sort the images
on your device. Just click the List
View icon at the bottom of the Image
Capture window. You'll now have
access to a whopping 17 columns
of data, including Name, Date, File
Size, Aperture, and ISO.

Click a column to organise your pictures by that criterion. Click a second time to reverse the order. You can now switch back to icon view; your pictures will retain the order.

A Speed up scanning tasks
Image Capture can now control
a compatible scanner – even if it's
not attached directly to your Mac. For
example, I was able to control my
Wi-Fi-capable HP Photosmart C6380
printer over my network. If you're
connecting from afar, the scanner
will appear under 'Shared' in the left
column. To scan, click on its name.

To speed things up, try placing a couple of snapshots on the flatbed; Image Capture detects them when scanning. Select the checkbox next to the Detect Separate Items option and then press Scan. When the scanner is finished, you'll get a preview of your snapshots.

If you'd like to refine your scanner settings – such as resolution, size and file format – click the Show Details button. You can even apply image correction and sharpening. Once the scan finishes, you'll have separate files for each snapshot.

5 Share devices over a network If you have multiple Macs running Snow Leopard on your network, you can give each of them access to an attached camera or memory card.

To share your images over the network, connect your iPhone, card reader, or digital camera to your Mac, open Image Capture, and then turn on the Share Camera option at the bottom of the left column (if you don't see it, click on the upward arrow).

On other networked Macs, your device should appear under the Shared heading in Image Capture. You can browse thumbnails and download any full-size image you want. Unfortunately, it doesn't appear that you can access shared files from previous versions of Image Capture; everyone must be using Snow Leopard.

6 Want a quick contact sheet of the birthday photos you just shot?

From the thumbnails, select the images you want to include on the contact sheet, choose 'MakePDF' from the 'Import To' pop-up menu, and then click Import.

Once a contact sheet is created, use the Save command to preserve the layout as a PDF. This isn't just any old contact sheet, however.

Open it in Preview and you'll see that it contains small but high-resolution thumbnails of your photos; each image remains sharp even as you zoom in. This means viewers can get up close to see details.



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Different strokes

Ricoh takes a radical approach to interchangeable lenses.

Pravely, Ricoh has delivered a radical camera system that is obviously not a camera for the occasional snapper but should appeal to highly specialised users. I really cannot see it having wide appeal even to general photographers due to its complexity and cost.

The GXR body holds only the 3in LCD screen, card slot, camera controls and flash. Adding a lens module means you're also adding the sensor, shutter, aperture, processing engine and autofocus motors.

The lens/sensor module, slides onto the front of the camera body, then the VF-2 viewfinder slips into the accessory shoe. This slip-on viewfinder is noteworthy, with an ability to tilt through 90 degrees, so you get an electronic waist-level finder. Each lens module can consist of a

When you add each lens module, you also add the sensor, shutter, aperture, processing engine plus the motors to drive auto focus."



different sensor type and size. While I found the camera to be well-balanced and not too heavy, it's not an easy item to slip into a pocket.

It's early days for the GXR, so my review unit included only the A12 module, with an f2.5/33mm lens (equal to 50mm on a 35mm camera) and the VF-2 electronic viewfinder. Its CMOS sensor carried 12.3 megapixels.

More modules should be available by the time you read this: the S10 has a 3x optical zoom and a 10MP CCD; the P10 relies on an f3.5/28-300mm optic and 10MP CMOS.



Tasco Australia, www.tasco.com.au

Pros Customised lens/sensor for specific tasks

Cons Each time you buy a lens you get another sensor

RRP \$699 body; \$1599 body and A12 unit



The A12 portrait/macro combo has no stabiliser. For its part, the S10 3x zoom combo uses an image sensor shift for image steadiness.

Promised developments include a remote control system between the body and camera units for wildlife photographers. A sensor-only unit is also being investigated that will allow users of third-party lenses to attach them to the GXR body.

The body is capable of capturing in RAW (DNG), JPEG and Motion JPEG formats, written to SD or SDHC cards, or to the 86MB internal memory.



The A12 module's focus range is 30cm to infinity along with a macro setting that gets you to 7cm; metering can be performed in multi-zone, centre-weighted and spot; exposure modes include auto, Program AE, aperture and shutter priority plus manual; maximum image size is 4288 x 2848 pixels, or 36 x 24cm as a print.

It seems that Ricoh took its eye off the ball with movie specs for the lens/ sensor modules: the A12 unit captures video at a maximum of 1280 x 720 pixels, recorded at 24 fps. However, the S10 with a 3x zoom is down to 640 x 480 or 320 x 240 pixels at 30 fps.

This seems to be going against the trend of cameras coming equipped with attractive video resolutions.

I did some tests to rattle the ISO figures a touch and see how well the module handled low light. So I'm happy to report that, up to ISO 800, the sensor delivered excellent gradation and little noise; by ISO 1600 noise was up but the shots were still useable; at ISO 3200 noise was admittedly up but, with the right type of shot, this setting was still useable.

Australian Macworld's buying

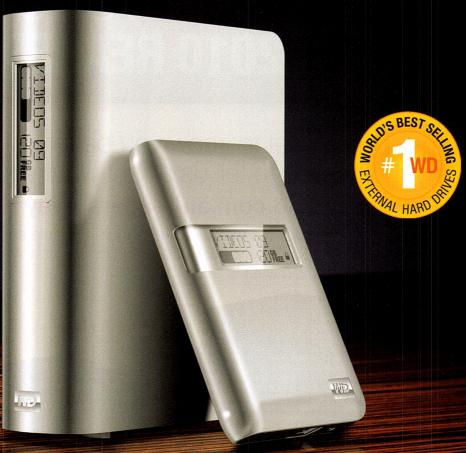
advice. The GXR seems like a perfect solution to an unasked question. It's ideal for upper-level, specialised photography, but not for general use. Picture quality is superb.

- BARRIE SMITH

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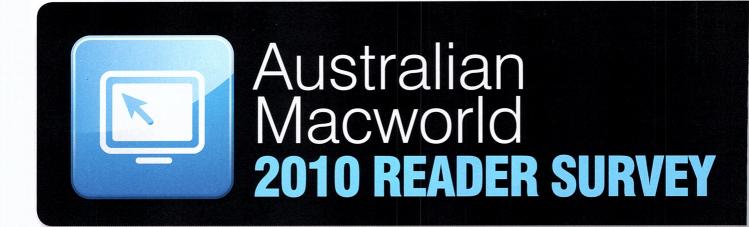


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SWITCHER SENSEI
DAVID BRAUE

Share and share alike

B ack in the old days, Apple's insistence on using the proprietary AppleTalk network protocol made networking Macs and Windows systems a real headache. Thankfully, however, those days are long behind us; Macs are TCP/IP natives and can easily share files and resources with other systems.

Sharing on a Mac is, conceptually, not too far removed from sharing in Windows, but is effected in a different way. In XP, you could right-click on any folder, choose Sharing and Security ... and expose it to the network using a share name.

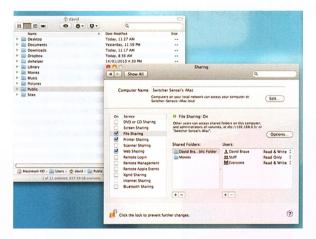
Vista put tight restrictions on where publicly-accessible folders and files needed to be placed (in Vista's Public folder) and provided granular control over access rights: Owner, Reader, Contributor, Co-owner status dictated who could do what.

Windows 7 added the idea of 'homegroups' for sharing files between Win 7 machines on a home network. And sharing in Vista and Windows 7 is managed through the central Network and Sharing Center, a centralised approach mirrored in Mac OS X.

To share files in Mac OS X, open System Preferences and click on Sharing. You'll note immediately that the Mac offers more sharing options than Windows. Windows manages file, public folder, printer, and media sharing, while Mac OS X also lets you share the disc in your DVD drive; your screen, which lets other networked users access and control your screen; and your printers, scanners, Bluetooth, and Internet connections.

Web Sharing lets your system act as a web server on the local network, publishing web pages stored in your Users > XXXXX > Sites folder. Remote Login lets other users log into your system; Remote Management controls access in large sites using Apple Remote Desktop; Xgrid sharing controls your computer's participation in networked computing clusters; and Remote Apple Events allows networked computers to coordinate their activities.

Note that each type of sharing has a tick box and can be easily turned on or off. Most options won't be



Sharing on a Mac is, conceptually, not too far removed from sharing in Windows, but is effected in a different way."

relevant to you most of the time so, for security's sake, only activate the sharing services you require.

To share files across the network, click on File Sharing. By default, a folder called 'Public Folder' has been set up for sharing access, with full Read & Write privileges for you and other privileges for Staff and Everyone user groups. Add other users by clicking the plus sign below

the Users window, and you can set access privileges for specific users or contacts from your Address Book.

The Public Folder created by Mac OS X lives in your personal user directory – Users > XXXXX > Public. For example, on Switcher Sensei's system the Public folder is Users > david > Public.

Copy files into this folder and everybody on the network can access them – subject, of course, to the restrictions imposed by your access controls. Share other folders by clicking the + sign and navigating to them; note that Mac OS X, unlike Windows Vista, does not let you share specific files.

Finder shows networked shares in the Shared menu of the left-hand sidebar: click on a computer's name and you'll get a list of all the shared folders on that system. In the Finder window, you can also choose Share Screen... to initiate screen sharing, and Connect As... to log into another system with a password.

Mac OS X uses AFP (Apple File Protocol) to share resources over networks by default, and this is generally a safe option as it works efficiently with Windows systems as well. However, you can also click the Options... button to enable FTP-based file sharing or force sharing using Windows' SMB protocol.

The other thing to know about is Bonjour, Apple's implementation of the Zeroconf protocol that lets computers discover shared network resources automatically. Bonjour works in the background to help computers find everything from folders and printers to shared iPhoto and iTunes libraries, the Remote iPhone application, iChat, Skype, and more.



Storage that POPS!

Pop one into your pocket today!

With USB ports in almost every computer and popping up in cars, DVD and multimedia players, TVs, photo frames and more, USB drives are now considered an essential accessory.

Verbatim's new Store'n'Go PinStripe USB utilises a pull-mechanism which protects the USB connector without requiring a separate cap.

Available in capacities ranging from 2 to 32GB (black only) and five vibrant metallic colours; Sunkissed Yellow, Eucalyptus Green, Hot Pink, Caribbean Blue and Volcanic Orange (all 4GB).



Liquid Digital reader tip:

ROGUE ADDRESSES

I have just stumbled on this 'gem' and reckon that some readers will also be pleased to know about it.

If you check the Previous Recipients Database in the Windows menu of Mail you will find every single address you have typed into an outgoing email and – here's the rub – this list will contain any address you have mistyped plus discontinued addresses you've edited from your Address Book.

You may have edited your Address Book to reflect your recipients' current addresses, but next time you write an email the Previous Recipients Database will faithfully auto-complete your address line with all the addresses you have ever used for that particular person.

This can lead to incorrectly addressed mail and to wasted time while you scroll down a list of addresses to choose the one you want – a list that could be longer than necessary.

So when you have a few minutes to spare head to the Previous Recipients Database and remove the rogue items. It will be worth it.

gazza, via AMW Forums

Each month, Liquid Digital gives an aGent V5 webcam valued at \$119.95 to the *Australian Macworld* reader who submits (via email or the *Australian Macworld* website) the best and most useful tip. Preference will be given to undocumented tips but it is not an exclusive condition. The sleek, sophisticated aGent V5 webcam from Liquid Digital is compatible with all Macs (OS 10.4+) and is the perfect choice for the design-savvy Mac user. The latest V5 model features full-HD 1920 x 1080 2-megapixel quality. With a five-layer German quality glass lens, an ultra-light, low-light sensor and an enhanced digital inbuilt mic, the V5 is a great choice for flexible, stylish web image and video applications. In the box is the polished-steel-cased aGent V5 webcam with

MacBook and iMac attachment clips, USB 2.0 and 1.1 adaptor, microfibre travel case and driver disc

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CAPTURING ITUNES VIDEOS

Is there a way to burn videos you buy from the iTunes Store to a DVD? I'm a teacher and buying a single episode to watch in class on iTunes is much cheaper than buying entire seasons on DVD. Jennifer Chestnut

Regrettably, no. You can burn iTunes' video content to DVDs, but only as data, not in a playable form.

One option is to play the episode on your Mac and then use an application such as Snow Leopard's QuickTime, Shinywhitebox's U\$\$29.95 (about \$33) iShowU HD (store. shinywhitebox.com), or Ambrosia Software's U\$\$69 (about \$75) Snapz Pro X (www.ambrosiasw.com) to capture it as a QuickTime movie that you can then burn to a DVD. Do so, however, and you'll break any number of licence agreements.

A more ethical way around the issue is to play the content on a computer in the classroom – ideally, one that's connected to a large monitor or projector – or download it to an iPod and then connect that iPod to a monitor or projector. According to the Australian Copyright Act there are provisions that allow use of copyright material for research or study if the use is fair, but you should really check if this applies in your case.

- CHRISTOPHER BREEN

INCONSISTENT SHORTCUT KEYS

Stick around

I often work with long Microsoft Word files. Getting to the end of one quickly is a big help. But I'm unable to move the cursor to the end of a Word document on my MacBook because the MacBook keyboard has no dedicated End key. And Customize Keyboard (Tools > Customize Keyboard) has no 'go to end of document' command to select.

John Fieser

Word contains keyboard commands for these actions, but they're hard to find. As you did, choose Tools > Customize Keyboard, but then select All Commands in the Categories pane, and then look in the Commands pane. You'll find both EndOfDocument and StartOfDocument. Just assign keyboard commands to each.

Although your laptop's keyboard lacks dedicated Home and End keys, there are equivalents that may just work.

In Word try pressing Fn-\mathcal{X}-Right Arrow and you should be taken to the end of the document. Similarly, press Fn-\mathcal{X}-Left Arrow, and you're transported to the top of the file.

Regrettably, Home and End keys (and their equivalent shortcuts) – much to the frustration of Windows switchers – are not implemented consistently across applications.

In some applications, you'll find that Fn-Right Arrow moves you to the end of a document. In other apps, no amount of Fn pressing moves you quickly through a document (though pressing Fn-Down Arrow or Fn-Up Arrow does allow you to scroll through windows one page or window, respectively, at a time).

- CHRISTOPHER BREEN

CATCHING CONFLICTS

Is there a tool in Snow Leopard that's similar to Casady & Greene's Conflict Catcher? I'm running OS X 10.6.2 and I'm having a problem with my Mac hanging in Mail and Safari; I'd like to know the source of the problem. I recall that Conflict Catcher could help pinpoint issues like this. Paul Galanti

I'm afraid no such tool exists for OS X. Conflict Catcher isolated the source of software conflicts in Mac OS 9 by loading increasingly larger sets of startup items (extensions and control panels) and asking you to let it know when you encounter a problem.

OS X doesn't have these extensions and control panels, and therefore there's nothing for a program like Conflict Catcher to work with.

However, you can try a few things. If you're of a technical bent, launch Console (found in the /Applications/ Utilities folder) and in the left side of the window look for entries that include the words Mail and Safari. Select one of these entries – Safari. crash.log, for example – and look at the end of the entry in the main window to see if there's a hint as to what did the dirty deed.

Also look at the Console Messages and system.log logs. These date- and time-stamped messages may help clue you into what brought your Mac to grief.

If what you find in Console is so much gobbledygook to you, restart the Mac, holding down the Shift key when you first hear the Mac's startup sound. This throws your Mac into Safe Boot mode.

If Mail and Safari behave themselves, open the Library folder at the root level of the hard drive and then open the Startupltems folder. There you'll find subfolders housing items that do one thing or another when your Mac starts up.

Move these subfolders to a folder on your desktop – you may be asked to supply an administrator password first – and restart your Mac.

Does it still behave itself?

Move half the folders back into the
StartupItems folder and restart your
computer.

Then check its behaviour – if it's working as it should, move the other half of the items into the Startupltems folder. If not, pull half of the second group of folders out of the Startupltems folder. Through that process of elimination, you may find the problem.

- CHRISTOPHER BREEN

BIG FAT ERROR

When I try to copy files from one hard drive to another, I get an error that reads: 'The Finder can't complete the operation because some data can't be read or written. (Error code -36).' Any ideas why I see this error?

Mike Burgess

I'm going to offer a guess that a FAT-formatted volume plays a part in this small drama. Snow Leopard doesn't always see eye-to-eye with such volumes when copying files. If this volume doesn't really need to be formatted that way, I'd suggest backing up its contents, using Disk Utility to format it as a Mac OS Extended volume, and then restoring the files to it.

If that's not an option, you might try Control-clicking (or right-clicking) the item you want to copy and, from the contextual menu, choosing Copy 'nameofitem'. Then move to the volume you want to copy to, Control-click again, and choose Paste Item.

This method often works when drag-and-drop doesn't.

— CHRISTOPHER BREEN

TIP: ACTIVATE QUICK LOOK IN EXPOSÉ

If you keep tons of windows open or if many of your programs use relatively small windows, you might find it hard to distinguish between windows when you use Exposé's Application Windows mode. Snow Leopard helps you out by displaying the title for every window; in Leopard, you saw titles only when you moved your mouse over one of the windows. And even better, Snow Leopard lets you use Quick Look with Exposé active.

Select the window you want by pressing an arrow key until you reach it or by hovering over the window with your mouse (the selected window will be outlined in blue). Then press the spacebar.

That will zoom you in on the selected window, as with Quick Look in the Finder, but you'll remain in Exposé mode. — **ROB GRIFFITHS**

STM query of the month:

SNAPBACK'S BACK

Do you know what has happened to Safari's SnapBack feature that used to appear as the orange arrow?

Is there a way to get it back? samson.tyler, via Australian Macworld Forum

I've no idea why Apple got rid of the very handy SnapBack feature – which allowed users to instantly snap back up to search results or the top level of any website after browsing down one or more levels. It was a prominent feature of the original 2003 release of Safari, and seemed to disappear when Safari 4.0.4 was released last November.

But the good news is that an unknown Mac lover has written a handy Javascript bookmarklet that allows you to recreate it.

On any page, create a bookmark (any bookmark) by going to Bookmark > Add Bookmark (or by just hitting %-D). Name it SnapBack and choose 'Bookmarks Bar' from the drop-down menu.

Then go to the bookmarks editing page by clicking on the book icon on the left of the toolbar (or via Bookmarks > Show All Bookmarks). In the left pane, click on 'Bookmarks Bar', find the SnapBack bookmark and change its URL to:

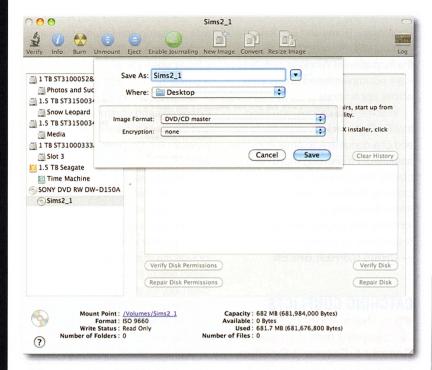
java script:history.go(1-history.length);

Click and drag the SnapBack bookmark into the position you want it to appear in the Bookmarks Bar, and you're done.

Now clicking on it works in exactly the same way as the old SnapBack arrow. Works a treat.

— DAVE BULLARD

Each month STM (02 8338 0222) gives a Remedy shoulder bag worth \$99.95 to the Australian Macworld reader who send in or posts to the forum the most intriguing query. STM's Remedy bag is a slim, light shoulder model that provides heavy-duty laptop protection in a special high-density-foam section. The water-resistant ripstop-polyester bag features a detachable, easy-access phone pocket, a zippered front pocket and a back slip pocket for documents. Send your query to macworldeditor@niche.com.au or post in the AMW forums at www.macworld.com.au/forums. All queries and solutions are the sole



CREATING DVD IMAGES

Is there a software program that can take the information on a DVD and put it in a file on your computer that you can then play as if you were playing it directly from the DVD itself?

Via the internet

How you go about it depends on the kind of DVD you're talking about. If you mean a data DVD, you can use Disk Utility, which you can find inside the /Applications/Utilities folder. Just launch Disk Utility, insert the disc you want to copy, select it in Disk

Utility's list of volumes, and choose File > New > Disk Image From "nameofdisc" (which is the name of the disc you've selected).

In the Save dialogue box that appears, choose DVD/CD Master from the Image Format pop-up menu and None from the Encryption pop-up menu.

Click Save, and an image of the disc will be created and saved to your desktop. You can now eject the real disc and double-click the image, and your Mac should treat the image as if it were the real disc.

'Should' is the operative word here. A handful of game discs won't respond to this treatment. The idea being that in order to play the game you have to insert the disc before the game runs. Without the game disc, you're out of luck, mate – you're a victim of the game's 'no substitute for the real deal' copy-protection scheme.

If you want to copy video DVDs – and be aware that you're breaking the law if you make a direct copy of commercial DVDs without formatshifting them – you can turn to tools such as the free HandBrake (handbrake.fr) and the Little App Factory's US\$19.95 (about \$22) Riplt.



property of Niche Media.

These tools will also make copies of the unprotected video DVDs you've created, but you can also use other tools to do that job. Squared 5's free MPEG Streamclip (www.squared5.com) can import the VOB files from your DVDs and convert them to other formats. Roxio's \$179 Toast 10 Titanium and \$100 Popcorn 4 (www.roxio.com.au) can, too.

Or, you can use Disk Utility to create a disk image, as explained earlier. When you do that and then double-click the image, you'll see a window that contains a Video_TS folder and, possibly, an Audio_TS folder.

Just launch DVD Player, choose File > Open DVD Media, navigate to the Video_TS folder, and the interface for the video will appear. Click Play in that interface and the video will play.

- CHRISTOPHER BREEN

EXACT ITUNES DUPES

I have several versions of the same song by one artist, so iTunes presents me with a long list when I ask it to show duplicates. Can I just find exact duplicates?

This reader is using iTunes' built-in tool to find duplicates in a library: You select File > Show Duplicates, and iTunes creates a list of all the songs it believes are dupes.

As it so often does, the Option key can help. Hold it down and then open the File menu. You'll see that the Show Duplicates menu item has changed to Show Exact Duplicates.

When you select it, the resulting list will be much shorter than before, because iTunes will apply much stricter criteria for determining the dupes.

— ROB GRIFFITHS





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TIP: CUSTOMISE SAFARI'S RSS INTERFACE

Ever read RSS feeds in Apple's Safari and find it hard to distinguish between unread and read articles? Whatever your gripe with Safari's visual interface for RSS, it's relatively easy to change it. All you need to do is create a CSS style sheet and tell the program to use it. For example, say you want to highlight unread articles with an easy-to-spot green background. Create a plain-text file with this text: @media screen {

div.apple-rss-unread {
 background-color: rgb(202, 255, 157)
!important;

. }

Save the file somewhere convenient, giving it the file extension .css. Then, open Safari's preferences, choose the Advanced tab, and use the Style Sheet pull-down menu to select the new file as your style sheet. After you restart Safari, you should see the new colours. There's a lot more you can do, using that style sheet. To find out what keys you can alter, look at Safari's CSS file for RSS pages, located at System/Library/Frameworks/PubSub.framework/Versions/A/Resources/PubSubAgent.app/Contents/Resources/Main.css.

- ROB GRIFFITHS



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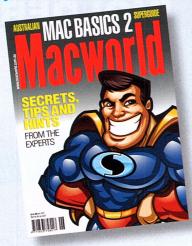
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THE SOUNDS **OF SILENCE**

Tired by the hum of plane engines? Distracted by the office airconditioner? DAVE BULLARD checks out the current crop of active noise cancelling headphones.

he concept of having headphones that can cancel outside noise has been around since the 1950s, but they haven't been a mainstream consumer item until fairly recently.

Bose, which developed the first active noise-cancelling (or NC) headphones, had a monopoly on the consumer market for many years, but there are now many options to choose from.

For those of you new to the concept, active NC headphones let you reduce outside interference so you can hear your music or movies better in noisy environments, concentrate better on a task, reduce fatigue on long flights and more.

They do this by using tiny microphones – mounted outside or inside the earcups - to measure unwanted noise, then generating an inverse wave that effectively cancels the noise. All this is done in very close to real time - the incoming audio signal (from your iPod, plane seat or whatever) is delayed by a split second to allow the circuitry to generate the new wave pattern and give you the best sound under the circumstances.

The NC circuits can affect the music you're hearing, so you generally wouldn't buy a set of noise-cancelling 'cans' for non-noisecancelling use (most won't work without the NC circuits turned on, anyway).

Not all NC headphones are created equal. For instance, while all are capable of eliminating steady background noises - such as aircraft cabin noise or the hum of an airconditioner in an office - only a few have the circuitry capable of approaching the elimination of shorter, sharper noises such as voices or a barking dog.

Most have a slight hiss when turned on, so check that this disappears when audio is played.

If at all possible, try the headphones before you buy. What I find uncomfortable you may well like, and vice versa.

And, finally, be aware that when a manufacturer says its headphones are 'noise cancelling' it might just mean 'sound isolating' or 'noise-reducing', which they do using tight-fitting or thick earpads or earbuds. To get the best results you want 'active' noise-cancelling headphones, which use the circuitry described above.



The Koss QZPros are the cheapest headphones in this Lab Test. They're a foldable, no-frills pair that operate off two AAA batteries (not supplied). They don't come with a case. Sound. The QZPros' noise-cancelling circuits produce a noticeable hiss, so while they do a reasonable job in cancelling ambient noise you are, in effect, trading one noise for another. The audio is nothing special. If you listen to, say, the Beats by Dr. Dre and then to the Kosses then you'll notice that these sound a bit muddy and lack clarity and depth. But if you just use these 'cold' they'll sound guite pleasant to the untrained ear. They can be used without the NC circuits being turned on.

Comfort. Fair. The vinvl earpads feel a little cheap and the headband clamps the head quite tightly, which becomes uncomfortable fairly quickly.

Design and build quality. The QZPros have a pleasing, chunky design. Build quality is solid, but the materials are what you'd expect at this price.

Specs. Frequency response 40Hz-20kHz; impedance 32 ohms; sensitivity 90dB/mW

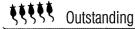
Accessories. Fixed 1.2m cord with volume; airline adaptor. Australian Macworld's buying advice. There is a reason that the Koss QZPros are nearly half the price of the next set up in this test, and four times cheaper than the Sennheisers: they're firmly aimed at the entry-level buyer.

EDS Trading, www.koss.com

Pros Price; lifetime warranty

Cons NC circuits produce a hiss.

RRP \$179.95





Very good



Good



Flawed



Unacceptable



Panasonic RP-HC500

I tend to write Lab Tests from the cheapest product up, which generally means moving from the worst to the best. But the Panasonic RP-HC500 stopped me in my tracks this time. They're the second cheapest here, but one of the best. **Sound.** The HC500s can be used without the NC circuits turned on, but the audio is mute and muddied until you turn the noise cancelling on. Then the sound is very good. It's not neutral, like the Sennheisers, but it's warm and pleasing.

The noise-cancelling capability of the HC500s is astounding. Where most NC cans block ambient noise and let through more identifiable sounds, the Panasonics more or less cut out everything but voices and loud, specific sounds (they claim 92 percent).

Comfort. Good. The pads fit just around the ear, like most in this Lab Test. The pads are comfortable and the grip is a little firm. My wife thought these were the most comfortable. **Design and build quality.** The design is just uninspired. Build quality is fair. The plastics are a bit light, but they seem robust enough.

Specs. Frequency response 8Hz-22kHz; impedance 32 ohms; sensitivity 108dB/mW

Accessories. 1.6m detachable cord; 6.3mm plug adaptor; airline adaptor; hard carrying case.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The RP-HC500s are a revelation – conglomerate-made, mass-market headphones with noise-cancelling properties that match specialist cans but cost a lot less. A best-buy at the price.

Panasonic, www.panasonic.com.au

Pros Top noise-cancelling performance; good audio.

Cons Design; materials.

RRP \$329





Audio-Technica ATH-ANC7b

The Audio-Technica ATH-ANC7bs and the Panasonic RP-HC500s are scarily similar, but have a few small differences in looks, audio quality and battery housing. **Sound.** The ANC7bs do a good job with noise cancellation, but not quite as good as the Panasonics. Audio-Technica claims noise reduction of 85 percent against Panasonic's 92 percent, and it is noticeable. The audio quality is more or less on a par with the Panasonics, though a little more neutral and with less bass response.

Comfort. The pads just fitted around my ears, which made me more aware of them when listening. But the earpads are soft and the pressure isn't bad.

Design and build quality. I think these look marginally better than the Panasonics. The quality of the materials is similar as well, with light yet seemingly robust plastics used. **Specs.** Frequency response 10Hz-25kHz; impedance 300 ohms; sensitivity 109dB/mW

Accessories. 1.6m detachable cord; 1m detachable cord; airline adaptor; 6.3mm plug adaptor; hard carrying case.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Of the two headphones reviewed in the \$300-\$400 range, I think the Panasonics do a better job than the Audio-Technicas and have a recommended price that's \$20 less. (The on-shelf price is very similar.) But a big negative here is the amount of sound that leaks from the ANC7bs. My family said if they were sitting next to me on a plane, they'd be "severely pissed off" to have to listen to my music.

Technical Audio Group, www.tag.com.au

Pros Pleasant sound; fairly good noise cancellation.

Cons Sound leakage; also muffled audio with NC turned off.

RRP \$349





Bose QuietComfort 15

A few years ago I got a pair of Bose QuietComfort 3s, and I've been very happy with them as a travelling companion. So I was interested to get my hands on this newer, \$100 cheaper model from Bose. While the QC3s are on-ear models, the QC15 sit around the ear and replace the QC2s. **Sound.** The noise-cancelling properties of the QC15s are particularly good – on a par with the Panasonics, Sonys and Sennheisers. Bose puts this down to an approach which uses microphones both inside and outside the earcups. They can only be used to listen to audio when turned on. The sound is very good – clean and musical with a bit of warmth. With the Sonys, probably the sound with the most universal appeal here.

Comfort. Like the Sennheisers, the QC15s have angled components in the earcup, and I find it slightly irritating that with both products my ears touch these bits unless I wiggle the cups around to find a good position. Otherwise, they are very comfortable

Design and build quality. The QC15s are good-looking, but the build quality of the QC3s is streets ahead.

Specs. Unavailable

Accessories. 1.8m cord; airline adaptor; hard case. **Australian Macworld's buying advice.** For \$100 more, the QC3s give you two rechargeable batteries (the QC15s use one AAA cell), better build quality and better comfort. But you can buy the NC15s knowing that they have better audio and that the noise-cancelling is better than most.

Bose, www.bose.com.au

Pros Top noise-cancelling; lovely sound

Cons Build quality not up to usual Bose standards

RRP \$499





Beats by Dr. Dre Studio

Reviewing these Monster-made headphones after the others in this Lab Test is like getting out of a government car and into a Hummer with a massive sound system, a chain steering wheel and spinner hubcaps. They're designed by a rapper and music producer, and it shows in every aspect. **Sound.** There's nothing laid-back about these cans. With a sonic signature that's designed to make you feel like you're in a club, they take the music and throw it into your ears. But they're as capable of finesse as they are at raw power. The NC itself is good – not the best of any here, but not the worst. An iPhone mic cable is in the box and there's a callanswer button on the headphones.

Comfort. Super-comfortable. You can wear them for hours. Design and build quality. Very cool design. These headphones have street cred dripping off them. The materials used are of very high quality, and the cables (as you might expect from Monster) are the best I've seen. Specs. Unavailable

Accessories. 1.3m cable; iSoniTalk iPhone cable; airline adaptor; 6.3mm plug adaptor; cloth; hard carrying case Australian Macworld's buying advice. Audiophiles and lovers of classical music might prefer the more neutral delivery of the Bose or Sennheisers, but for everyone else, these cans will rock your world. These headphones just make you feel good. I've taken half a mouse away because this feature is primarily about noise cancelling, and they could do better in that regard.

Convoy International, www.ehifi.com.au

Pros Optimised sound; unbelievable bass; high-quality build

Cons NC could be better

RRP \$499





Sony MDR-NC500D

We're getting into the big league at \$599, so Sony was under pressure to deliver the goods with the NC500Ds.

Luckily for Sony, it did. It's gone out of its way to make this a premium package, and while the 500Ds aren't the best of this bunch, they have plenty to recommend them.

Sound. The noise-cancelling properties of these headphones is among the best here, along with the Panasonics, Boses and Sennheisers. There's great detail in the audio, with nice balance and a little warmth that creeps in and make them very listenable.

Comfort. I didn't find these that comfortable. They could do with more padding on the headband, the band is a little tight and the cups could be a little bigger.

Design and build quality. The 500Ds are all black in colour, with a pleasing design. They feel solid and well-made too. The only thing I didn't like are the fiddly controls – I kept on having to take them off to find the right button.

Specs. Frequency response 5Hz-24kHz; impedance 40 ohms; sensitivity 102dB/mW

Accessories. 0.5m cord; 1,5m cord; cord with auxiliary battery case; airline adaptor; unimatch plug; AC power adaptor; hard carrying case

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The 500Ds are a little older than the others in this Lab Test, but they stand up very well against the current crop. I found the comfort lacking a little, and they're quite expensive, but other than that they're definitely worth looking at.

Sony, www.sony.com.au

Pros NC capabilities; sound and build quality

Cons Comfort; price

RRP \$599





Sennheiser PXC 450

We've saved the most expensive – and the best – for last. **Sound.** When it comes to noise cancelling the Sennheisers, Boses, Panasonics and Sonys are all very good. With audio, however, the Sennheisers are head and shoulders above the rest. They're wonderfully neutral, clear and detailed, with great balance and wide frequency response. Classical and jazz fans, in particular, will love these. But if you like your bass you'd be better off with the Dr Dre Studios.

Comfort. Not only do the earcups look huge – turning the wearer into a Princess Leia lookalike – they feel huge as well. Overall, the 450s are very comfortable, though I found the bits inside the cups were particularly invasive here.

Design and build quality. Great on all counts. You really get what you pay for here, I liked the bypass switch that lets you use the 450s as normal headphones when the batteries run out, but the controls could be easier to feel.

Specs. Frequency response 8Hz-28kHz; impedance 150/750 ohms; sensitivity 108dB/mW

Accessories. 1.6m detachable cord; 6.3mm plug adaptor; airline adaptor; hard carrying case.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. These are the audiophile's noise-cancelling headphones, and the ones with the best mix of audio and NC. But there are three negatives to me. One is the price, another is the massive earcups – and the stuff inside them – and the other is the 'suction'. The better NC headphones all give you some feeling of pressure, but it was more noticeable on these.

Syntec International, www.sennheiser.com.au

Pros Very good, neutral sound

Cons Price; suction feeling

RRP \$699.95





HEADPHONES FOR MUSIC PROFESSIONALS. AND MUSIC OBSESSIONALS.

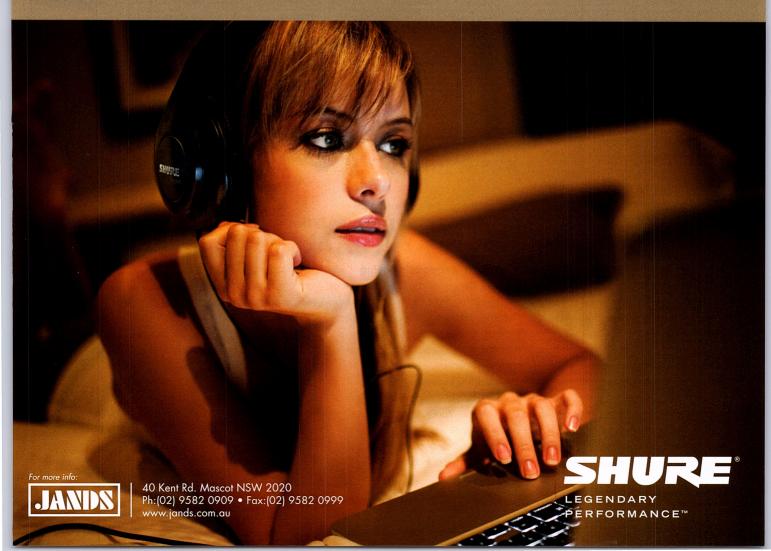
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SRH840



More than a cradle

Classy way to integrate your iPhone into your car.

omTom's iPhone car kit with GPS booster and Bluetooth is an excellent way to bridge the gap between your iPhone and your car without going overboard.

There's no shortage of options for connecting your iPhone to your car, from cheap dashboard mounts to full-blown car entertainment systems. TomTom's iPhone car kit sits somewhere in between.

It features one of the more flexible mounts we've seen. The suction cup uses a large dial to ensure you get a good grip on the window, and the phone mount is attached with a ball joint. The phone can rotate 360 degrees and slide up and down.

All this all makes it easy to allow for the angle of your windscreen and the shape of the dashboard, adjusting the phone for easy viewing while minimising glare. The secure mounting stops the phone from vibrating as you drive, but the trade-off is that you'll probably need to remove the phone from all but the slimmest third-party protective case.

The cradle is powered from your cigarette lighter via a 1.5m USB cable. This allows the phone to charge, plus it powers the GPS booster and Bluetooth hands-free kit. The cradle features a volume rocker for its built-in speaker, which doesn't do much to boost music volume but makes it navigation app's spoken instructions much clearer.

There's also a 3.5mm line-out for playing audio through a compatible car stereo.

The cradle can also link to your iPhone via Bluetooth, which lets the phone access the GPS booster.
Tested in the 'burbs, the booster's effect was noticeable but not dramatic when negotiating several close turns.

Connecting your iPhone to the cradle via Bluetooth also lets you use

the hands-free option, automatically engaging the speaker-phone when you answer a call. You still have to touch the phone to accept the call. Victoria Police tell me this is OK as long as the phone is in a cradle, but laws vary from state to state so take care.

The car kit performed admirably when tested with the TomTom Australia 1.3 app. The interface lets you access the music play/pause and track controls, plus you have the option to either turn down or pause the music when the satnav issues spoken commands. The satnav is shut down and the music stopped if a call comes in, but both relaunch once you end the call.

If you connect to your car stereo via a cable then the music, spoken commands and ring tone all come through the car speakers but the audio during calls runs



The TomTom solution is about convenience, it's expensive but has a lot to offer."

through the cradle's speaker and mic (which will suit some people and annoy others).

Australian Macworld's buying advice. Once you combine the cost of the TomTom car kit for iPhone and the TomTom iPhone app, you could buy yourself a cheap dedicated satnav unit. Of course you'd still need a car cradle for your iPhone.

The TomTom solution is about convenience, it's expensive but has a lot to offer. Unfortunately, the lack of an FM transmitter means you're relying on your car stereo to feature an audio line-in. If you're not connecting to your

car stereo, you might find cheaper cradles meet your needs – although the TomTom cradle's flexibility, external speaker and GPS booster still make it attractive.

If the lack of a line-in tempts you to upgrade your car stereo, that obviously opens up a whole new world of options. If you opt for a car stereo with USB-based direct iPod control, you can't use it with this cradle. The TomTom car kit for iPhone is impressive, but think long and hard about how you want to use it and how it will interact with your car.

- ADAM TURNER

Announcing New FileMaker Pro 11

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NAS Swiss Army Knife

Versatile Disk Station not for the faint-hearted.

he extensive features offered by network-attached storage (NAS) devices are garnering more interest from consumers, but the difficulty in setting up the devices have kept them out of the mainstream.

Synology's Disk Station
DS409slim is a uniquely-designed
NAS device that has four bays for
laptop-size hard drives, numerous
RAID configurations, multiple features
that advanced users will enjoy, and –
a welcome improvement over other
NAS systems – simple setup.

The compact, black DS409slim is smaller than your average NAS, due to its use of 2.5in laptop hard drives as opposed to the bulkier 3.5in drives normally associated with NAS units.

Synology says the 2.5in drives and the Disk Station's unique design

allow it to consume less energy than competing NAS units.

Setting up the Synology via
Ethernet to our local network was
pretty straightforward. Detecting the
unit through Bonjour was a cinch
and setting up user accounts and
accessing the Disk Station Manager
Web tool was easy. One tip: before
you start, go to www.synology.com to
download a firmware update.

A Management section guides you through the nuts and bolts tools of the program, allowing you to access the DS409slim's three functions: Web Station, Photo Station and File Station.

File Station is perhaps the most commonly used mode. The Windowsstyled interface displays the folders you have access to and lets you copy, delete, and upload files to them. A major oversight with the File Station 2 tool – and the current version of the Disk Station itself – is that you can't upload folders in any capacity, only individual files (up to 100 at a time).

This means every song you upload to the iTunes server, every photo you grab for the Photo Station, every document you want to share, must be sifted through and individually selected. This is inconvenient and bordering on maddening.

It took the Disk Station about 24 seconds to upload a single 150MB file, so if you want to share thousands of songs with your network, it could take hours to individually upload every file.

Also, every major feature must be configured, which means you'll be consulting the extensive (but somehow still insufficient) user manual in the installation disc. While companies like HP have made their features easy to learn, Synology's many tools will turn off most consumers due the overwhelming amount of technical information that needs to be sifted through. This is not the NAS unit to cut your teeth on.

The Disk Station does have the ability to backup your computer's hard disk via Time Machine, and the unit itself can be backed up using an eSATA or USB cord and an additional external drive

Australian Macworld's buying

advice. The Synology Disk Station DS409slim is still a long way from being a consumer-friendly NAS unit. Its features are impressive and beat even some of the best home media servers; but its inability to upload folders is a major inconvenience. If you have the time and patience, this is one of the most versatile NAS devices on the market. But that's a big "if".

- CHRIS HOLT

Every song you upload to the iTunes server, every photo you grab for the Photo Station, every document you want to share must be sifted through and individually selected."



Synology Disk Station DS409slim

Synology, www.synology.com

Pros Compact; impressive list of features

Cons Unintuitive interface; No folder upload ability

RRP \$789

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Powermat

Simms International, www.simms.com.au

Pros Provides wireless power

Cons Still too fiddly

RRP \$199.95 (mat + receiver); extra receivers \$49.95 each



Power player

he concept of wireless power has been around for over 100 years, but we're still to see a solution that would let us dump all the power cables connecting our computing and entertainment gear.

While over-the-air power is the ideal – the closest we've seen to a commercial product is a Haier LCD TV prototype that gets wireless power from 1m-2m away – in reality, what we have at the moment is the ability to charge batteries using a magnetic induction pad.

So enter the Powermat. Shaped like a small skateboard, it's a powerboard that lets you charge up to three devices simply by placing them on the mat.

Well, it's not actually so simple, as each device you're charging needs to be connected to a 'receiver' in some way: An iPhone or iPod touch needs to be placed in a case that sports the receiver on the back; a BlackBerry gets a replacement battery door; other iPods plug into a dock that sits atop the Powermat; and everything else (Nokias, PSPs, etc) plugs into a Power Cube that has 10 universal tips and, again, sits on one of the Powermat's three charging points.

It lets you dump all your chargers in favour of an all-in-one system (great for gadget-heavy travellers), and gives you the convenience of dump-and-run charging for some devices. The downfall is that in most cases you're still plugging into a charger – you're just placing that charger on a mat instead of in a wall power socket.

And the problems with the cases is they make your iPhone or iPod touch noticeably heavier, and they take over your dock connector, which meant I was always having to take the cases off to use my audio docks and my in-car sound system.

Australian Macworld's buying advice. The powermat is a power system that is suited to many situations. But it's not a universal solution yet.

- DAVE BULLARD

Weigh ahead

Wi-Fi scale perfect for the weight-conscious.

osing weight is so difficult both physically and mentally that anything which will help the process is very welcome.

Well, how about a scale that not only records your weight but uploads the information, along with your lean & fat mass and calculated body mass index (BMI), to a secure website and generates data charts that you can access from your Mac or iPhone?

It exists, it's great, and it's called the WiFi Body Scale, from French company Withings.

The scale itself is a very upmarket model, with a smoky glass top and digital readout. Setting it up is easy – insert the four supplied AA batteries, then go to the website displayed on a large sticker on the scale.

Once you register, you download a Mac installation wizard which configures your scale on your wireless network (yes, as the name suggests, you must have a Wi-Fi network that the scale can connect to).

Adding a user is as easy as clicking on 'Add a User' on your Withings dashboard on your web browser, or even just standing on the scales. If the user's weight is different to your own weight then he or she is recognised as a new user.

Up to eight users can share the same account – my wife, two daughters and I could see our data as a family – or each user can have his or her own account.

When you step on the scales, they send your weight to the database, then show your name on the display.

The dashboard lets you see charts of your weight, fat and lean mass, and BMI. This info can be printed out, shared with other Withings users, published on the web or Twitter or linked with a Google Health or Microsoft HealthVault account. This is particularly good for those working in a group or with a personal trainer.

There's also a goal-setting feature.
The iPhone app, WiScale, shows
the same data

Australian Macworld's buying

advice. Withings has dragged the scale into the 21st century, and has done a very good job indeed. Not only does it work well, it does it with a minimum of effort from the user. The only negative is that it occasionally records a widely varying weight. I 'lost' 2.4kg one day, but went back to my previous weight the next. While you obviously get some variance due to time and circumstances, this seemed a bit too much.

— DAVE BULLARD

Withings WiFi Body Scale

PC Range, www.wifiscale.com.au

Pros Easy to use; looks great; works very well

Cons Unexplained occasional weight variance

RRP \$249





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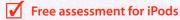


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ONE MORE THING...

The cost of an iPad app

hen Apple announced the App Store in July 2008 it revolutionised the software market. Pre-app store, buying software or apps was decidedly uncool. In fact, for most consumers, the only time they'd ever take money out of their pockets to buy software was during the purchase of a computer, and the money in most cases helped line Microsoft's pockets.

But with the App Store Apple made some important changes. Mainly, it made buying software super easy.

The App Store came bundled on every iPhone, and finding software was only a tap anyway. Once you'd found the software you wanted the process of actually buying it was just as easy. As such, the app store provided a software buying model that gave consumers instant gratification and now, over a billion apps later, has proven to be a great success.

Another equally important element was the app pricing.

There's been much discussion about app pricing, and the race towards the \$1.19 (US\$0.99) price point. In the traditional desktop software market, writing and selling an application for \$1.19 is unsustainable. The sheer volume of users doesn't exist, and developers wouldn't have the marketing clout to reach them.

The integrated approach that Apple took with the App Store meant that nearly everyone with an iPhone or iPod touch could find apps and buy them easily. Suddenly, from a developer's perspective your app wasn't just available to those consumers who knew where to look, but everyone who owned an iPhone; a platform that now has in excess of 80 million users and, by the end of this year, will likely have over 120 million.



The iPad UI leaves more room for interpretation and, with a comparatively large display, developers need to make sure their apps do more."

As an aside, Windows is the only other platform with as many users.

The race to \$1.19 hasn't played out as most analysts expected. Sure, there are many low-priced apps, but for apps that are well written and useful, developers can easily charge anywhere up to \$10. There are even cases where popular apps cost more.

Take TomTom, for example. It's a very expensive app at \$99 but it's good value when compared to buying a physical GPS device for over \$300.

With the release of the iPad, we're seeing iPad-only apps which generally cost more than iPhone ones. Many are free, some are \$2.49, many are \$5.99, some are \$17.99 or more – there's much more variety in the price.

Developers like the Omnigroup are releasing apps with the equivalent power of their desktop cousins. It would be a missed opportunity to price these at \$2.49, when they offer nearly as many features as their desktop counterparts; so OmniGraffle, which is \$329.95 for the Mac, is \$59.99 for the iPad.

Plus the effort required to develop iPad apps is greater than that for equivalent iPhone apps. The UI leaves more room for interpretation and, with a larger display, developers need to make sure their apps do more.

In the case of some, such as the iWork suite, there is also a level of complexity required in dealing with files; something that is rarely an issue on the iPhone.

As the iPad platform grows and more developers become familiar with the particulars of the iPad SDK, expect app prices to fall, but to stabilise at a higher price than iPhone apps.

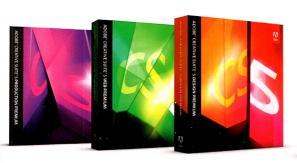


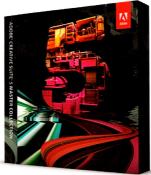






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